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LD1410130988 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

An explosion in West Beirut 14 October killed 3 people, including a Syrian soldier, and wounded 32 others, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. Three buildings were destroyed in the blast, which was targeted against a Syrian roadblock in the Al-Tariq al-Jadidah area.

In another development, Beirut radio cited an announcement by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni that the Chamber will convene in Al-Najmah Square 18 October to elect a new speaker, deputy speaker, and other officials.

Iran

Hostage Issues—The Israeli paper THE NATION alleged that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has become active in hostage negotiations with the United States and intends to ensure their success.

U.S. denials of the negotiations have led to suspicion Iran will not gain what it hoped to from the release of the hostages and have bolstered opposition to the talks, the paper added.

It attributed the recent breakdown in talks with Britain to the latter's refusal to link the resumption of ties with hostage negotiations.

Peace Talks—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati submitted a report on the Iran-Iraq peace talks to Ayatollah Khomeyni, Tehran radio reported.

IRGC Minister 'Ali Shamkhani received UNIIMOG Commander General Slavko Jovic and UN special representative Marrack Goulding, according to Tehran television.

Discussions centered on duties of the UNIIMOG forces and difficulties encountered with Iraqi forces along the cease-fire lines. Jovic and Goulding later arrived in Bakhtaran to inspect the area, IRNA reported.

Kurdish Refugees—Iran is unable to accept more Iraqi Kurdish refugees, Deputy Prime Minister 'Alireza Mo'ayeri said in remarks reported by IRNA before leaving for Ankara.

A total of 32,226 Kurdish refugees from Iraq have entered Iran so far; approximately 8,000 of them through Turkey, according to Tehran radio.

A radio commentary criticized the United States for failing to help the refugees, despite its condemnation of Iraq's use of chemical weapons.

ICO Conference—A Tehran radio commentary criticized the resolution of the ICO information ministers conference as unrealistic, noting that the conference was backed by Saudi Arabia, a regime "outside of the bounds of Islam," so a truthful resolution could not be expected.

Israel

Territories—One Arab youth was killed and three children injured by IDF fire during clashes in the Janin area and the Gaza Strip 13 October, Jerusalem radio reported.

A general strike was observed the following day to mark the anniversary of the IDF's 1953 raid on Qibya.

The radio also announced that security forces have apprehended the "terrorists" responsible for the 6 October assassination of the Biddiya village mukhtar, adding that five houses belonging to the suspects were demolished.

Foreign Relations—A Foreign Ministry spokesman "refused to react" to a PRC official denial of reports that the two countries are holding contacts on joint commercial and academic projects, Jerusalem radio noted.

Despite the PRC's denial that Foreign Ministry Assistant Director General Yitzhaq Minervi is currently in China, the radio affirmed that Minervi "is indeed conducting economic talks in Beijing at present."

Among related press reportage, THE NATION stated that Minervi has signed agreements for two joint projects with the PRC, which has issued an invitation for the next Israeli foreign minister to visit China after the upcoming election and formation of a new government.

As for relations with Hungary, MTI reported that Hungarian and Israeli commerce officials signed an agreement 12 October for the expansion of business contacts.

A Hungarian airline official cited by the agency disclosed that scheduled flights between the two countries are expected to start in April 1989.

Egypt

Over 1,500 people demonstrated in Giza and Heliopolis 11 October to protest the failure of the Islamic investment company Al-Rayyan to pay profits due on their deposits, AL-JUMHURIYAH reported.

The depositors rejected offers by Al-Rayyan to compensate them in kind with company assets in proportion to the size of their deposits.

A related report by the opposition paper AL-WAFD noted that the demonstrators shouted antigovernment slogans criticizing the capital investment law which regulated the activities of the investment companies.

Saudi Arabia

Special envoy Prince Bandar Sultan met Zhao Ziyang in Beijing, RENMIN RIBAO reported.

He praised the PRC's policy of reform and opening up and expressed a hope for further cooperation between the two countries.

Afghanistan

Soviet Envoy—First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov was appointed ambassador to Afghanistan, TASS announced.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said Afghanistan is a "bleeding wound" and therefore needs a "highly skilled healer."

Chemical Weapons—A Foreign Ministry spokesman denied Western press reports that the Air Force used napalm against rebels, TASS noted.

The spokesman said the accusations of use of napalm and other chemical weapons constitute "psychological warfare" against Afghanistan.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Concludes Meeting, Calls for State

JN1310182288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Oct 88 pp 1, 17

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] An expanded meeting of Fatah leaders and cadres, held in Tunis over the past 2 days, has supported the establishment of an independent Palestinian state according to [UN] 1947 Resolution 181, which calls for the partition of Palestine. The meeting also supported the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Informed sources in the movement yesterday told AL-BAYAN that the meeting, attended by members of the [Fatah] Central Committee, most of the Revolutionary Council members and regional commissioners, and some cadres, concentrated its discussion on two issues: the popular Palestinian uprising and means to back and develop it and future Palestinian moves. The movement's leadership, represented by Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu Mahir), who conducted the dialogue, rejected a demand from some members to discuss Fatah's internal organizational issues.

The sources said the conferees have discussed seven proposed Palestinian alternatives to fill the vacuum created in the occupied West Bank since Jordan's decision to disengage relations. They supported the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state according to UN Resolution 181 and the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The sources added that Faruq Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf), Fatah Central Committee member and chief of the PLO Political Department, presented a political report dealing with various developments in the Palestine question.

The movement's second man, Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), talked about the existing vacuum in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said the vacuum is real and warned it might be exploited by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The movement's leader, Yasir 'Arafat, took part in the meetings of the night before last. He urged the conferees to carry out the missions entrusted to them in the shortest possible time. He also shed light on a large number of issues, including his recent visit to the PRC, India, and Bangladesh. He pointed out he was promised by the PRC leadership of more support to the Palestinian revolution, particularly the popular uprising.

Fatah movement's sources said 'Arafat has pointed out that a number of Arab states have not fulfilled their pledges of support to the uprising. In this regard, he said Libya has contributed $34 million and that Saudi popular committees have contributed 40 million Saudi riyals. Additionally, Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz promised to pay his country's obligations during the next few days.

Khalid al-Hasan on Upcoming State Proclamation

PM1310100988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Oct 88 pp 1, 2

[Report on interview with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and PNC Foreign Relations Committee chairman, by Mahir 'Uthman; date, place not given]

[Text] London—Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and PNC Foreign Relations Committee chairman, has stated that "declaration of independence is a natural right of the Palestinian people and that nobody is entitled to object to it."

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Khalid al-Hasan said that although the PLO Executive Committee and the leaders of the Palestinian factions have agreed on the draft recommendations to be submitted to the PNC during its next session, "only the PNC has the right and the power to declare independence and decide on the other recommendations submitted to it."

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the expected international reaction to the declaration of an independent Palestinian state, he replied: "The Palestinian people have a natural right to declare independence. Nobody has a right to object to that and there is no law that entitles anyone to object to the independence of any nation. Natural rights are stronger than status rights. The Palestinian people's entire struggle is fundamentally a struggle for independence."

Al-Hasan added: "The 14-point program of the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territory is mainly geared to fulfilling the independence objective. So the declaration of independence will be a new upsuree for the uprising at the level of local struggle and will mark a change in the political struggle at world level."

Asked about expected international reaction to the intended declaration of an independent Palestinian state, Al-Hasan said: "All the states which recognize the PLO are expected to support the declaration."

He added that the "wording of the political declaration (which will be coupled with a declaration of an independent Palestinian state) will determine the European attitude and the Western attitude in general."

Asked about the extent to which the Palestinian leadership has formulated the draft political declaration, Al-Hasan said: "The draft is expected to include UN Resolution 181 issued in 1947 (the resolution partitioning Palestine into two states, one Arab and the other

Jewish) and to tackle the question of the refugees on the basis of UN Resolution 194, which gives them the right to repatriation or to receive compensation for their property.

"The draft political declaration is also expected to put emphasis on an international peace conference on the Middle East and to underscore the special ties between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples in the context of a confederation between an independent Palestinian state and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

"The draft is also expected to include a rejection of terrorism—in other words confirmation of the Cairo Declaration—and [include] Resolution 242, uphold the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and call for Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem."

Asked if the declaration of a Palestinian state will name Jerusalem as the capital of that state, he said: "Of course."

Asked if the draft of the expected political declaration is final, Al-Hasan said: The ideas I have mentioned have been agreed upon and finalized but the drafting has not been finalized yet. These ideas are the principles which the PNC will regard as the basis of the duties of a Palestinian provisional government with a view to achieving a political settlement through an international conference if it is decided to postpone the declaration of a provisional government, otherwise the entire political declaration will be issued by the PNC if it decides to announce the formation of the government while in session. [sentence as published]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked Al-Hasan about the criticism of him in the DFLP magazine AL-HURRIYAH after his speech to the conference of the popular organizations for the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights (which is held annually in Geneva).

He said: In my speech at the Geneva conference I said that if negotiations are the only way to peace, an international conference becomes, as far as our problem is concerned, the only practical way to attain peace. When I read the Israeli Likud and Labor manifestos I get the impression they are rivals in extremism.

In my speech I also said: There is a deep and fundamental international dimension to the Palestinian people's tragedy because that tragedy began with an international resolution. Therefore the conflict could also be settled with an international resolution or through international supervision. That is why nobody should fear an international conference.

Reacting to AL-HURRIYAH's accusations, Al-Hasan said: Anyone calling for an international conference where negotiations are to be held must realize Moscow and Washington will not negotiate on behalf of the PLO and Israel. A conference with powers means that the big powers would intervene to promote agreement on the points not agreed upon [by the parties].

Anyone who agrees to such things should not speak out without understanding the language or the local factors which have nothing to do with this critical stage in the history of the Palestinian question. If there is a genuine misunderstanding, then the place to discuss it would be the leadership meetings which have been continuing for almost a month. The DFLP has not been absent from these meetings although [DFLP Secretary General] Nayif Hawatimah's presence has been intermittent for personal reasons we do not wish to go into.

PFLP-GC Views 'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting

JN1310210688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] 'Arafat held lengthy talks with President Husni Mubarak's advisers culminating in a 2-hour tete-a-tete between 'Arafat and Mubarak. According to Egyptian sources, 'Arafat briefed Mubarak on the decisions to be made by the PNC due to convene at the end of the month. Mubarak, the sources added, briefed 'Arafat on the outcome of his European tour, especially since the two had met before the former set out on his tour. Mubarak said then that 'Arafat had given him the so-called Palestinian paper which 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid later brought up during last month's three-way meeting grouping, along with the Egyptian foreign minister, George Shultz and Shim'on Peres.

Meanwhile, a PFLP-GC official spokesman has made a statement on the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting, in which he said: 'Arafat has tied the fate of the Palestinian cause to the Camp David wheel and Egypt's relations with the United States and the Zionist enemy. 'Arafat's frequent visits to Cairo and consultations with Mubarak dovetail with the former's moves and allies. Strangely, we hear nothing from these allies who are not far removed from the 'Arafatist line of running after the strategy led by the Cairo of Camp David.

OPEC Affairs

Subroto on Restoring 'Order' to Oil Market

LD1310123088 Vienna OPECNA in English 1209 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] London, 13 Oct. 88 (OPECNA)—OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto said here today that the organization would adopt strategies and policies needed to ensure the 'stability of real oil prices which should keep pace with the growth of the world economy, the world oil demand and the finite nature of oil as a commodity'.

He declared this objective would be achieved sooner than most detractors of OPEC thought.

In a keynote address at the opening of the annual oil and money conference, he said OPEC had been considering the issue at length, adding 'We firmly believe that the concept of fairness should be considered in a global context and therefore the only fair price for oil is one fair to both producers and consumers'.

According to Subroto, in real terms a price of 18 dollars per barrel was not significantly different from the one that prevailed prior to the first adjustment in October 1973.

He said that the restoration of prices to this level was only an immediate objective and a means of instituting order in the oil market.

The OPEC secretary general said that it was crucial to first restore an 'acceptable degree of order' in the market, something OPEC alone could not accomplish as it would cause severe damage to the economies of its member countries.

'It would require greater and more concrete cooperation from all other producers who stand to benefit more than OPEC member countries from price stability, particularly since most of them have not had to endure sacrifices comparable to those endured by OPEC.'

According to Subroto, the long-term incremental oil demand could only be met by OPEC since it possessed the bulk of the world's proven oil reserves and enjoyed the lowest production costs.

'Accordingly, the role of OPEC as the price leader was bound to strengthen in the course of time and if we are to avoid sharp fluctuations over the next decade or so then it is essential to establish closer cooperation between OPEC and other producers to overcome the present chaos,' he said.

He also called for genuine understanding between producers and consumers to avoid, or at least to lessen, the possibility of a repetition of the short-term price upheavals witnessed in the last 10 years.

Algeria

APS Details Planned Political Reforms

LD1310115188 Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers, 13/10/88 (APS)—Two days only after the address of President Chadli Bendjedid to the nation, it was announced in the frame of a precise time table, that the head of state, in conformity with Article 111 of the Constitution, decided to submit to a referendum on November 3 a project of constitutional modification aimed at the reorganization of the executive power providing mainly that the government will be in the future responsible before the parliament.

This first decision implies the constitutional prerogatives of the head of state. It is in the strict respect of Constitution, to which the president of the Republic has always proclamed his attachment, that this decision has been taken.

This first part of reforms submitted to the referendum on November 3 will lead to important consequences for the functioning of the government. It is worth noting first of all that the prime minister who will be designated by the head of state, will choose ministers by taking into consideration the emergence of abilities in the frame of the widest consultation with no one debarred.

Moreover, the fact that the government will be responsible before the representatives of the people, will enable to considerably clarify and increase the role of control which must be assured by these representatives and will bring new qualitative criteria the concept of the exercise of the people's will. [sentence as received]

The people, through their representatives will thus judge the activity of the executive power and draw the conclusions which they consider adequate. Moreover, the decision taken Wednesday by the president of the Republic includes a second part which concerns other constitutional provisisions that are not only related to the executive power but also to other political institutions.

It is in the constitutional and statutory context and in the permanent respect of the legal frame that the head of state will first submit the whole project of political reforms, which provides for a large democratization of the political life, to the forthcoming FLN party congress.

He has thus started a deep dynamic of change in order that the institutions of the country can be provided with new instruments and new provisions taking into consideration social changes and taking in charge the popular aspirations.

Finally, it is once again the people who will decide. In fact it is the people, who through a second referendum will take the ultimate decision concerning the project of political reforms.

Thus, the vast project of political reforms which was announced under all its economic, social and political aspects announced in the speech of December upon the state of the nation, will find its expected outcome.

Majority of 'Prisoners of Conscience' Released

LD1310232188 Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] In Algeria the majority of the prisoners of conscience arrested since the start of the riots were released yesterday evening. This was confirmed today by close relatives of those released.

But according to the Algerian Human Rights League, a large number of people who were caught red-handed during the looting as well as ordinary passers-by are awaiting trial.

Egypt

Plan Studied for 'Normal Relations' With Libya

NC1410145188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The Saudi newspaper ARAB NEWS quotes the Sudanese information minister as saying that Egypt and Libya are studying a plan for the establishment of normal relations between them. He indicated that the two countries have accepted what he termed a formula of understanding that had been proposed by Sudan.

Sidqi Holds News Conference, Ends Sudan Visit

EA1110095788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi says that Egypt is not ready to accept Libyan viewpoints. He explained that Egypt continues to accept all mediation efforts aimed at normalizing its relations with Libya, but that these always fail because of the position of the Libyan side.

In the news conference he held yesterday in the Council of Ministers at the end of his visit to Sudan, his excellency said the main reason for what is happening in Lebanon goes back to foreign interference. He went on to say that we fear that relations may worsen.

Dr 'Atif affirmed that the Israeli side will be obligated to implement the decision of the international board of arbitration by withdrawing from Tabah. He said the decision of the board of arbitration demonstrated the success of the Egyptian policy of negotiation and dialogue.

The Sudanese and Egyptian sides agreed to convene the meeting of the Sudanese-Egyptian joint committee at the end of November as Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will be visiting Cairo to discuss common issues between the two countries.

AL-AKHBAR Urges Support for Palestinian State
JN1310193988 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Oct 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Preparation for the Anticipated Decision"]

[Text] The Palestinian countdown began in preparation for the issuance of the anticipated declaration of the independent Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. This will subsequently be followed by the formation of a provisional Palestinian government. The proclamation of the new state will be based on the 1947 UN partition resolution on whose basis the Jewish groups set up their state on part of the British-mandated Palestinian territory.

There is no doubt that this important Palestinian step will have a resounding effect in the various world capitals, in addition to the strong reaction expected from the Israeli circles at the time of new elections. It is indisputable that the decision to declare the Palestinian state will strongly impose itself on the election campaign that is basically undertaken by the Likud bloc led by Yitzhaq Shamir and the Labor Party led by Shim'on Peres. Each party will try to exploit developments in its favor. Shamir has actually emphasized that he will never agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories, warning that this will make war continue forever.

The entire Arab world, and not the Palestinian groups alone, is required to mobilize all its political and information energies for this decisive phase and for the anticipated encounter with the parties that will try to exert every possible effort to foil the birth of the new Palestinian state. All the Arab capabilities available in the international arena should be used to strongly support the historic Palestinian decision. Such a position requires intensive consultations and coordination with the Palestinian leaders in support of every step taken in this regard.

Economic Communique Signed With Kuwait
NC1310195188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1926 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Egypt and Kuwait today signed a joint communique at the conclusion of their economic talks, which lasted for 3 days. Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa signed for the Egyptians, while Faysal al-Khalid, Kuwaiti minister of industry and trade, signed for the Kuwaitis.

The communique provides for joint action to develop the trade agreement signed by both sides in 1966. It also provides for signing an agreement on encouraging investment and transfer of funds during the meetings of the joint technical committee due to begin in Cairo next month.

The two sides agreed to hold joint exhibitions in both countries, exchange visits, and establish a permanent Egyptian exhibition in Kuwait to promote Egyptian exports in Kuwaiti markets.

Officials in the Economic Ministry presented a list of potential projects for Kuwaiti investors to initiate in Egypt.

The Kuwaiti economic delegation arrived in Cairo last Sunday to attend the inauguration of the Islamic trade exhibition and the Egyptian opera house.

Protestors Demand Payment From Investment Firm
JN1310180688 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Oct 88 pp 1, 7

[By Kamal 'Abd al-Jabir and Hasan al-Shayib]

[Text] Al-Rayyan company has decided to hold any payments for depositors in the form of loans or otherwise. According to an executive of Al-Rayyan company, depositor withdrawals as of October 1988 reached 30 million Egyptian pounds corresponding to the cash available with the firm. He indicated that for the company's projects to remain operative and to safeguard the interests of customers they need cash. Many corporations owe the company over 100 million pounds in outstanding debts, he said. The source made it clear that the company has decided that depositors wanting to withdraw their money may be compensated by replacements in kind of the company's assets. The company offers the following:
— 7,000 feddans in Al-Nubariyyah.
— 125,000 meters [as published] of construction land in Kanj Maryut [name as published] 125,000 meters.
— 125,000 meters at Kilo 26.
— 60,000 meters at Bitter Lakes.
— 15,000 meters by Al-Koki Park .
— 225,000 meters of construction land at Madinat al-Salam.
— Offices and clinics at Al-Rayyan Tower at Al-Khalifah al-Ma'mun Street.
— Offices at Al-Mirghani Street.

Yesterday Al-Ahram Street and Heliopolis suburb saw a noisy demonstration by some 1,500 people including 1,000 women depositors who thronged the company headquarters and sought to break into the building but were thwarted by security forces. They had been frustrated by the company's failure to pay profits due on their deposits. Yesterday and the day before, some 1,500 depositors were met by Ahmad Tawfiq 'Abd al-Fattah, the company's president, who informed them that he plans to offer them, each in proportion to their deposits, the firm's assets in property, land, houses, exhibitions, warehouses, projects, and cattle pens. As for the depositors who do not have checks, they will be entitled to ownership of the company's property or recovery of their deposits by filing an application to the company administration setting the mode whereby they wish to be

compensated. He also informed them that it has been decided to cash all of the checks issued by the company to the despositors from 23 October to 27 October at the company headquarters at Al-Ahram Street. Thereupon, depositors shouted their demands that they want their money back rather than company property.

The depositors then proceeded to the Al-Jizah Governorate building where they met with 'Umar 'Abd al-Akhir who sought to calm them down, promising to bring their problem to the attention of government officials and to work for payment of their accruals.

At 1100 yesterday, about 1,200 depositors went to the company headquarters in Al-Ahram Street and tried to force their way into the building. A police force under Major General Ibrahim Rasikh, head of Al-Jizah Investigation, and Brigadier General Mamduh al-Jawhari, chief of criminal investigation, intervened and barred them from the building and then brought traffic in Al-Ahram Street back to normal.

About 400 depositors in Al-Rayyan companies went to the firm's branch in Heliopolis where they assembled and sought an interview with employees there to retrieve their deposits. A deputation then went to the Presidency where they met with a number of officials who promised to bring their problem to the attention of competent authorities. Two of the depositors, Muhammad Hasan Fu'ad and 'Abd al-Tawwab 'Ali Ahmad, filed a complaint against the Al-Rayyan company proprietors, demanding a return of their money, 1,500 and 2,000 pounds respectively, deposited with the company's Al-Andalus Street branch.

Further on Demonstrations

JN1310164888 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Oct 88 pp 1, 2

[By Muhammad 'Abd al-'Alim]

[Text] Approximately 3,000 of the citizens who have deposits at the Al-Rayyan companies demonstrated in front of the Al-Jizah Governorate building yesterday, protesting the company's refusal to cash checks it issued 2 weeks ago. The demonstrators have closed Al-Ahram Street since the early hours of the morning. The Al-Jizah Governorate and Interior Ministry declared a state of emergency to control the situation. The demonstrators shouted antigovernment slogans for issuing the capital investment law organizing the activities of the capital investment companies.

Al-Rayyan companies issued a statement yesterday and distributed it to the depositors. The statement stressed that the company will cash all the checks as of Sunday, 23 October, until 27 October. The company has also decided to sell some of its projects to depositors who want their funds replaced in kind. Signing of contracts with depositors was set to begin 18 October. The company also decided to postpone any cash payments whether in the form of credits or withdrawals from deposits until it has completed the adjustment of its affairs. Only then will the company announce the new cashing dates. In its statement, the company explained the economic and financial conditions of the projects at the group of companies it owns.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Ghana's Rawlings Talk on Phone

LD1210051988 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0015 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] There was a telephone contact yesterday, Tuesday, between the revolutionary internationalist leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the international revolution, and Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the Ghanaian Provisional National Defense Council.

Sudanese Energy Minister, Army Chief Leave

LD1210231588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Oct (JANA)—Brother Mubarak al-Fadhil al-Mahdi, minister of energy and mining in brotherly Sudan, and General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, left Tripoli this morning following the conclusion of their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Social Security Protocol Signed With Morocco

LD1310164088 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 13, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The social security protocol reached by the Libyan Arab-Moroccan Joint Committee was concluded in Tripoli.

It was signed by the director of the social security fund in Great Al-Jamahiriyah and the director general of its counterpart in sisterly Morocco.

The protocol promulgates items on social security among the two sisterly countries including the unification and coordination of the bilateral stances vis-a-vis Arab and international organizations, apart from discussing the proposal of a Maghreb social security at the level of Arab Maghreb countries.

The protocol specifies the application of the social security agreement concluded between the two countries to put it into practice alongside conducting a study on accidents taking place at work, sickness and the payment of money to employees in both countries.

Mauritania

France Gives Aid to Anti-Locust Program

AB0910160988 Paris AFP in English 1352 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] Nouakchott, Oct 9 (AFP)—France has given Mauritania 15,000 litres (nearly 4,000 gallons) of pesticide, 500 sprayers and the use of an aircraft as its contribution to the year's anti-locust program, officials said here.

The grant, made Saturday, adds to five aircraft already operational, but which have proved inadequate to cope with the invasion.

Already, 30 per cent of pastureland and 25 per cent of crops have been destroyed.

2 Financial Agreements Signed

AB1010111688 Paris AFP in French 2203 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] Nouakchott, 9 Oct (AFP)—Mauritanian Finance and Economy Minister Mohamed Ould Nany yesterday in Nouakchott signed two financial agreements worth Fr2.8 million with representatives of the Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) and the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation (CCCE).

The first agreement, amounting to Fr1 million, is assistance from the FAC for improvements in the financial and economic system of the Ministry of Finance.

The second agreement is an interest-free loan of Fr1.8 million for the program of the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS) to reinforce the right bank of the Senegal River.

Minister Returns From Romania, USSR

AB1110123388 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] The minister of fisheries and maritime economy returned to Nouakchott on Sunday [9 October] after official visits to Romania and the Soviet Union.

In Romania, Mr Dah Ould Cheikh delivered a message from the head of state to President Nicolae Ceausescu. The minister also had several discussions with his Romanian counterpart.

The two ministers reviewed cooperation agreements in the fields of fisheries, investment guarantees social security, and the abolition of double taxation.

Scientific research and maritime reform were also discussed by the two ministers, who agreed that 15 Mauritanian Navy officers and 15 merchant shipping officers would be trained in Romania.

Romania agreed in principle to this request from our country and the Romanian minister of food industry will make the necessary arrangements with his government.

The Romanian-Mauritanian Joint Fishing Company was also discussed by the two ministers. They suggested setting up a (?large) fish production establishment, the key aspect of which would be a fish cannery in Mauritania.

A joint communique issued at the end of the visit of the minister of fisheries and maritime economy to the USSR emphasized that the two ministers appreciated the dynamic and diversified nature of the cooperation between our two countries in the fisheries sector, as well as the development of our political relations.

The two ministers expressed great satisfaction with the activities of the Sanapeche joint fisheries company and said they hope to enhance economic benefits in the future.

Morocco

Filali Interviewed on Foreign Relations

PM1310143388 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Oct 88 p 38

[Interview with Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: In his UN General Assembly speech the Algerian foreign minister said that two things were necessary for the settlement of the Sahara question: direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario and, second, a referendum without any military or administrative restrictions. What do you think of that?

Filali: On the issue of the Sahara, the UN secretary general has a practical program for organizing and supervising the referendum. That program covers everything.

Naturally, some matters will require examination in the future. That will occur after the appointment of the secretary general's personal representative.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been said that, under the secretary general's plan, the majority of the Moroccan forces should withdraw from the disputed region and the rest should be confined to barracks during the referendum.

Of course, the Polisario forces would also be confined to barracks in that same period. Is that what you agreed to?

Filali: I have read many things, but I have no official knowledge of that point.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you mean that the secretary general has not asked you to withdraw the major part of your forces from the Sahara?

Filali: We are now awaiting the appointment of the personal representative and the military representative in the region. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you hope or expect the referendum to be held within a month, say, or a year?

Filali: If I were to express Morocco's view, I would say that we would welcome holding the referendum tomorrow.

AL-HAWADITH: The other point raised by the Algerian minister in his speech was direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario. You still reject direct negotiations. Is that not so?

Filali: Now that the parties concerned have accepted the peace plan for the region, which specifies all but the exceptional points to be tackled after the appointment of the personal representative, there is nothing left to negotiate. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Let me put the question to you in another way. Why, in your view, does the Polisario insist on direct negotiations?

Filali: Because it does not want a referendum that would show if the Polisario represents anything at all. Before we resolve the question of the referendum, Morocco cannot negotiate with unelected people.

AL-HAWADITH: Assuming the referendum resulted in a Saharan decision to join Morocco, what would you do with the Polisario group?

Filali: We would welcome them if they decided to enter Morocco as citizens. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Would they be allowed to play a political role, bearing in mind that they have political demands?

Filali: In Morocco we have a multiparty system. So if they wished to join the parties on the basis of their political ambitions, that would be up to them to do so.

AL-HAWADITH: What I mean is do you envisage a role for them in the local administration of the Sahara, in the civil administration for example?

Filali: If they requested that. The Saharans now have a presence in Tangiers, in the army, and in the diplomatic corps. So they should not necessarily have a role only in the Sahara. If they are Moroccans then they are part of Morocco from north to south.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been claimed that a meeting was held in Saudi Arabia between Moroccan officials and Polisario members.

Filali: There has been no such meeting. That is a lie. I have heard the claims of that man who calls himself the president of the Saharan Republic and whose father lives in Marrakesh.

He is from Marrakesh and he studied in Morocco, but he thinks he is the president of the Polisario Republic. What has been said is a lie, there was no meeting between Moroccan and Polisario officials.

AL-HAWADITH: What was the nature of the Saudi role?

Filali: The Saudi role was an attempt... The Saudis made positive efforts and bridged the Moroccan and Algerian views. That is why the Algerian-Moroccan meeting was held and relations were restored.

AL-HAWADITH: With the Algerian-Moroccan rapprochement, has the question of dialogue between Morocco and the Polisario in the context of Algerian-Moroccan bilateral relations been resolved or not?

Filali: There is close cooperation between us. The meetings of the Algerian-Moroccan economic and cultural committee have begun and another committee will, God willing, meet at the foreign-minister level in Rabat 24 October.

There is nothing to disturb our relations. There is also the agreement regarding the Algerian-Moroccan company for marketing gas in Europe. Relations have started in the best possible atmosphere. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: In your relations with the United States do you sense any resentment, reservation, or conditions related to the merger of the Arab Maghreb states because of Libya's membership?

Filali: We have heard nothing of that kind from the United States.

I have met with Secretary of State Shultz and heard nothing like that from the Americans. [passage omitted]

Joint Economic Committee With Iraq Meets

JN1110161588 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 11, INA—The 5th session of the Iraqi-Moroccan joint committee for technical, trade and economic cooperation started here today.

The Iraqi side to the meetings is headed by Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade while the Moroccan side is headed by Mr. 'Abdallah Azmani, minister of commerce and industry.

Speaking at the meeting, the two ministers expressed Iraq and Morocco's desire over bolstering bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The committee, over three day meetings, will consider promoting bilateral cooperation in fields of trade exchange and technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Iraqi Minister Meets Officials

JN1310133088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Rabat, 13 Oct (INA)—Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has held a series of meetings with a number of Moroccan ministers. These meetings were devoted to promoting cooperation between Iraq and Morocco.

Throughout the day yesterday, Salih held separate meetings with Energy and Mines Minister Mohamed Fettah, Employment Minister Hassan Abbadi, and Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada.

Discussions focused on expanding trade exchanges between Iraq and Morocco regarding raw materials as well as establishing joint projects and exchanging expertise and manpower.

In their meetings with the Iraqi trade minister, the Moroccan ministers greeted the Iraqi victory over the Iranian aggression. They asserted that Iraq's great victory is also a victory for Morocco and for the Arab and Islamic nations.

The Iraqi trade minister briefed the Moroccan officials on the economic and industrial development Iraq is witnessing and asserted Iraq's determination to continue its development policy.

It is noteworthy that the Iraqi minister is visiting Morocco to lead the Iraqi side to the meetings of the fifth session of the Iraqi-Moroccan joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation which began work in Rabat yesterday.

Cooperation Reviewed

LD1310133688 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Rabat, Oct 13 (MAP)—Visiting Iraqi Minister of Commerce Mahdi Salih conferred Tuesday with a number of Moroccan officials on bilateral cooperation and on the works of the Moroccan-Iraqi joint commission currently held here.

Talks with Moroccan Minister of Employment Hassan Abbadi centered on the Moroccan contribution to the reconstruction of Iraq and the dispatching of Moroccan cadres and workers in this respect to Iraq.

They also reviewed the cooperation between the two countries in trade, agricultural, tourism and industry areas.

Abbadi recalled the joint commission for economic, trade, financial, scientific and cultural fields. The commission started its 5th session here Tuesday.

Salih was, on the other hand, received by Minister in Charge of Economic Affairs Moulay Zine Zahidi.

On Wednesday Salih visited the industrial installations and plants of the town of Fes including electric and mechanical factories, textile plants.

Joint Committee Ends Meetings

JN1310192088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Iraq and Morocco have signed the minutes of the meetings of the fifth session of the Iraqi-Moroccan joint committee for economic, technical, and trade cooperation, which concluded in Rabat today.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih signed the minutes for the Iraqi side while Commerce and Industry Minister 'Abdallah Azmani signed for the Moroccan side.

The minutes stipulate the promotion of economic and trade relations between the two countries along with increasing and diversifying the volume of commodities exchanges. Morocco will grant Iraq credit facilities estimated at $100 million to finance its exports of various commodities during the coming year.

The minutes include intensifying meetings between Iraqi and Moroccan businessmen and exchanges of visits between the chambers of industry and commerce in the two countries.

The minutes also stipulate the holding of an Iraqi trade week in Casablanca and a Moroccan one in Baghdad next year. The miniutes pointed to the possibility of carrying out Iraqi-Moroccan joint lucrative economic projects and cooperation between the two countries in the field of training cadres at a high technical level.

The minutes stressed the need to promote cooperation in the industrial and agricultural fields.

It has been decided to hold the sixth meeting of the committee in Baghdad in the 2d half of next year.

Angolan Trade Minister Concludes Agreement

LD1110194188 Rabat MAP in English 1244 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Rabat Oct 11 (MAP)—Angolan Minister of Trade and Tourism Domingo Simoes Rangel, flew back home on Monday after a few-day visit to Morocco at the invitation of Moroccan Minister of Trade and Industry Abdallah Azmani. Rangel's visit was marked by the conclusion, along with Azmani, of three cooperation agreements.

The first concerns promotion of trade between the two countries, the second technical and cultural cooperation, while the third regulates, the functioning of the Moroccan-Angolan joint commission.

In a statement before leaving the Rabat-Sale Airport, the Angolan minister expressed satisfaction at the outcome of his visit. He particularly stressed that agreement has been reached with Moroccan businessmen and investors to undertake joint-ventures with Angolan partners.

Sierra Leone President Momoh Departs

LD1210213288 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Fes (Morocco), Oct 12 (MAP)—President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone Tuesday flew back home winding up a brief visit to Morocco during which he conferred with King Hassan II in Ifrane (near Fes).

King Hassan and President Momoh held two rounds of talks on Monday, one shortly after the president's arrival on Monday and another later in the evening.

The sovereign had also offered a dinner banquet in honor of President Momoh and his accompanying delegation.

President Momoh was accompanied during his visit by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boubakar Djiabe, Sierra Leone's ambassador to Britain called Bubee and director of Political Affairs at the Foreign Ministry M. Jones.

Tunisia

Islamic Leader Outlines Political Aims

PM1410102188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Oct 88 p 7

['Part I' of an interview with Abdelfattah Mourou, Islamic Tendency Movement secretary general, by Yasir Farahat in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] [Farahat] The interview began by talking about the statement which Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche made to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT emphasizing that Tunisia in its new era is giving Islam its true status and providing all factors of success for Islamic work and that Islam is now penetrating all activities in Tunisia, which has truly become an Islamic state.

[Mourou] The Hedi Baccouche statement is not unusual from a man who has long been known for his free thinking and his struggle for democracy as well as his Arab, Islamic nobility.

There is nothing strange about a statement being made by the head of a government that has begun to eliminate the vestiges of the era before 7 November. The government is facing great difficulties in this regard.

But the efforts being made by its men, foremost among them Hedi Baccouche, have produced considerable positive results under instructions from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

We consider this a good omen for us Muslims who wish to join the nationalist group and enjoy the right of citizenship which other Tunisians are already enjoying. We were denied that right before 7 November.

Now we have the head of the government joining in to tell us the news that the 7 November era is one of equality among all Tunisians—an era that will enable Tunisians to gain their basic rights, including their right to take political action under the banner of a law which we all consider a positive step, despite our disagreement over some of its points.

It is a positive step toward regulating political life in the country.

I emphasize once again that the movement on behalf of which I am talking seeks to perform organized political work that does not violate the law. And it abides by the terms laid down by Law 300 of 1988, known as the party law.

And, like any other movement in the arena, it is ready to contribute to building Tunisian society and rationalizing the political option in the country.

We have already announced our commitment to the terms laid down by the law. All we are waiting for now is the elimination of the past era's actions against our movement, which includes releasing the remaining prisoners and enabling those who have been released to gain their civil rights so they can work positively within the party which they have applied to register.

I believe that the positive steps President Ben Ali has taken toward our movement, including the participation of a representative from the movement in the committee studying the national charter, will result, God willing, in recognition of the movement as a political party. [passage omitted]

[Farahat] There are rumors that your movement is suffering a severe internal crisis at the leadership level.

What is your present assessment of the movement on behalf of which you speak, and will these rumors, if proved correct, affect it in the future?

[Mourou] I know nothing about this crisis except from some papers which, I believe, are out of touch with reality. Perhaps some of them are tendentious and seeking to circulate false reports, portraying tension that does not exist in reality.

What I know is that the Tunisian Islamic Tendency Movement, which was established some years ago, has been seeking to polarize those who are convinced of the need for an Islamic action that covers all aspects of life.

Numerous individuals have joined the movement. They tend to differ over various issues because they originally decided that they would allow one another to express their views over issues raised in the arena. It is a movement struggling for the freedom of expression and thinking. It cannot accept the suppression of any ideas emanating inside as long as those ideas are consistent with Islam, even if they differ from ideas of which others inside the movement are convinced. [passage omitted]

I believe that the claims by some that there are severe disputes inside the movement or at the level of its leadership only reflect a concealed desire on the part of some parties to fragment this coherent movement, which, with help from Almighty God, has set an example of unity and consensus.

[Farahat] What is your full concept of the new Tunisian party law, and to what extent could its stipulations, namely separating religion from politics, tend to hamper the basic activities of the Islamic Tendency Movement in the sense that it is an Islamic movement?

[Mourou] Our first disagreement with the law passed recently is that it has been promulgated to legally regulate political life, in the sense that its rules, once it is endorsed, will apply to all political parties even though they were not consulted on it when it was being prepared.

There should have been popular consultation similar to that being held on the national charter. Popular consultations should have been initiated to allow everyone to express his opinion of the law before it was endorsed; but that did not take place.

The second disagreement is that the party law sometimes perpetuates what the former regime used to hint at, namely restriction of the right to pursue political work. [passage omitted]

But we accept this law despite its contradictions, because we belong to a state of institutions. We believe that our dissatisfaction or others' satisfaction with any law must not hamper its application. It must be applied until another law representing the popular will is promulgated to amend the first law. We accept the party law as it is.

[Farahat] How do you explain the the gradual recognition of the Islamic Tendency Movement?

[Mourou] I believe that the gradual recognition is attributable to the fact that the former regime was extremely eager to suppress the Islamic groups by any means. The regime imprisoned their members, accusing them of sabotage and of working for a foreign state. It also accused them of corruption.

That regime used to blame the Islamic groups for every provocative act occurring in the country. But the foreign jurists, lawyers, press representatives, representatives of various humanitarian establishments, and human rights associations in the world, who reviewed the files prepared during that era to condemn the Islamic groups, proved that the Islamic Tendency Movement had nothing to do with the sabotage acts pinned on them.

So injustices against the Islamic tendency increased to a point where the new regime could not resolve the matter quickly. Because thousands were imprisoned and thousands were dismissed from their jobs. But it satisfies us that there is a political desire to resolve the problem of the Islamic Tendency in Tunisia.

[Farahat] In your interview with the AL-MAGHRIB AL-'ARABI [as transliterated] magazine you said that you are a political movement whose role is not to urge people to pray, fast, and perform religious rites.

Do you not see these basics as essential for developing the social structure and providing solutions to problems?

[Mourou] As Muslims who grew up in the arena of the call, we believe our duty is to introduce Islam to the people and spread the true Islamic facts among them so that they will know Islam better. Our duty is to help the people affiliate with Islam and adhere to it. [passage omitted]

Our role as politicians is to present our ideas of a social, economic, political, educational system based on Islam in which we all believe—a system that can match up to the 20th century in which we live and solve people's problems.

So there is no contradiction between our responsibilities as Muslims advocating Islam and our responsibilities as politicians seeking to secure a solution based on Islam—a solution that can resolve the problems that the people are currently experiencing.

Bahrain

Minister Returns From Jeddah Conference 12 Oct

JN1310085088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 12 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad and his accompanying delegation returned to Manama from Jeddah tonight after participating in the first Islamic information ministers conference which concluded earlier this evening. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

State Divided Into 5 Administrative Districts

LD1210162088 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] A decree has been issued dividing the State of Kuwait into 5 administative districts which are: the district of Kuwait, the capital; the district of Hawwali; the district of al-Farwaniyyah; the district of al-Jahra'; and the district of al-'Ahmadi.

A decree has also been issued appointing 'Abd al-Latif Muhammad al-Burjah as top-grade governor of the district of Hawwali. Another decree has been issued appointing Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah as top-grade governor of the district of al-Farwaniyyah.

PDRY

Revolution's 'Silver Jubilee' Celebrated

Romanian Delegation Arrives

EA1110194088 Aden ANA in Arabic 1335 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Aden, 11 Oct—The delegation of the Socialist Republic of Romania led by Comrade Nicolae Giosan, candidate member of the Party's Politburo and chairman of the Grand National Assembly, arrived in Aden this morning to take part in our country's celebrations marking the silver jubilee of the revolution and the 10th anniversary of the founding of the party.

The delegation was met at the airport by Comrade Dr Sayf Salih Khalid, candidate member of the Political Bureau and first secretary of the party's organization in the Aden Governorate, and a number of reception committee members.

Omani Sultan Sends Cable

JN1210181788 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Cable from Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas; date not given]

[Text] His Excellency Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, Aden:

On the occasion of your celebration of the anniversary of the 14 October Revolution and the foundation of the YSP, it pleases us to extend to you personally our warmest congratulations and best wishes for your continued good health and happiness. We wish the fraternal Yemeni people continuous progress and prosperity. Kindly accept our greetings.

Your brother Qabus ibn Sa'id.

Ethiopia's Mengistu Attends

LD1310124488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, president of the PDRE, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, arrived in Aden this evening at the head of a high-level delegation to participate in our peoples' celebrations of the silver jubilee of the revolution and the 10th anniversary of the party's founding. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam was accorded a big official reception.

At the head of those who received him were Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee; Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee; other members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee; ministers; civilian and military officials; the Ethiopian ambassador and embassy staff; the Ethiopian community in Aden; and the diplomatic corps accredited to Aden.

Somali President Arrives for 'Silver Jubilee'

EA1310095388 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Democratic Republic of Somalia, and his delegation arrived in Aden this afternoon on an official visit to Democratic Yemen to participate in our people's celebrations of the silver jubilee of the 14 October revolution and the 10th anniversary of the party. The distinguished guest was accorded a big official welcome.

Receiving him were Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, a number of members of the

Political Bureau and the Central Committee, ministers, a number of civilian and military officials, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Aden, the Somali ambassador and embassy staff, and the Somali community in Aden.

Meets With Al-'Attas

EA1310194288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0555 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Presidium, yesterday evening met his brother, Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Democratic Republic of Somalia, who is currently visiting our country to participate in our people's celebrations of the silver jubilee of the revolution and the 10th anniversary of the setting up of the party, at his residence.

The brotherly relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to develop them in various fields were discussed during this meeting.

Opens New Electrical Plant

EA1310195088 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, the SDR president, who is currently visiting the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], in a ceremony in his honor opened a new electrical plant in Aden today.

The electrical plant will supply power to Abyan region, 70 km from Aden town, and especially to the farm irrigation projects there. The project—funded by the Kuwait Arab Development Fund—will go a long way toward supplying basic food requirements in the region and nearby areas.

Comrade Siad, accompanied by the deputy secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] of the PDRY, Salim Salih Muhammad, Dr Muhammad 'Ali Hamud, the SDR's state minister for foreign affairs, and the presidential delegation, also toured a water purifying plant today. The plant is capable of producing 4,200 cubic (?meters) of fresh water for Aden town.

Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, the SDR president, last night received in his residence the president of the Supreme Council of the PDRY, Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas.

They discussed bilateral matters—particularly how best to strengthen relations between the two brotherly countries of Somalia and PDRY and how to further promote economic, political, trade and social matters.

The two presidents also discussed how imperative it is to strengthen the SDR, PDRY, and Djibouti commission to police the dumping of wastes in the seas they share.

Comrade Siad expressed gratitude for the warm and brotherly welcome accorded to him and his delegation in the PDRY which is representative of the excellent brotherly relations between the two countries and peoples.

Saudi Arabia

Security Cooperation Protocol Signed With Turkey

LD0710183188 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Oct 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister, and His Excellency Dr Mustafa Kalemli, the Turkish interior minister signed a protocol on security cooperation at the Turkish Interior Ministry this afternoon.

This will be followed by the signing of a security agreement on the fight against terrorism and drugs and everything relating to the joint security aspects between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Turkey. The two countries are presently preparing the final draft of this agreement.

Following the signing of the protocol, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz made this statement:

"On this blessed day, my brother Dr Mustafa Kalemli, the interior minister of the Republic of Turkey, and I have signed a protocol on cooperation in the fight against drugs and terrorism and on security cooperation. It has also been agreed that a joint commission will meet to draft the complete security agreement to be signed by the two countries. This agreement will clarify all the fields of security cooperation between our two countries. I pray to God that this is in the best interest of our nation and in the interest of our joint security. I also hope that this will contribute positively to the security of our region and international security."

His excellency the Turkish interior minister said that he was happy with the signing of this protocol and with the positive results achieved. He added: "The signing of this protocol will increase cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of security and the fight against drugs and terrorism."

King Fahd Sends Message to CPC's Zhao Ziyang

LD1310184488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1805 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Beijing, 13 Oct (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has sent a message to Zhao Ziyang, the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party.

The message was delivered by His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, when he was received by Zhao Ziyang today.

His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan 'Abd al-'Aziz had earlier met His Excellency Qian Qichen, the Chinese minister of foreign affairs.

United Arab Emirates

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Minister Nu'aymi

PM1310104588 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Oct 88 pp 36-37

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: The UAE's relationship with Iran during the Iraq-Iran war was distinctive. Now that a cease-fire has been adopted, how do you expect this relationship to develop?

Al-Nu'aymi: The relationship is historic in terms of neighborliness and daily dealings. But it has always been influenced by Iran's relationship with the Arab states.

We Arabs are affected by anything that harms Arab security. We believe that the present stage is one of peace and will, as there is a true desire on the part of the Iranians and Iraqis to achieve peace.

If we look at the historical relationship between the two countries, we will find that peace can only be achieved on the basis of justice, namely, when justice prevails and truth is established so every party can gain its rights, whether border, economic, or political rights—which is supposed to be achieved during the negotiations. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you support Iraq in its claim that it has full sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab?

Al-Nu'aymi: We Arabs consider Shatt al-'Arab to be Arab waters and support any agreement the two parties reach in this regard. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Does the UAE play a role in normalizing relations between Iran and the GCC states?

Al-Nu'aymi: We in the GCC pursue a special approach in our relations with all states. Some of us maintain good relations with the East, whereas some maintain good relations with the West. But we are pursuing one policy that is agreed upon by all the states to serve their interests.

AL-HAWADITH: We hear that Kuwait is ready to normalize matters in its relations with Tehran. And there are signs that some GCC states could resume normal relations with Iran. Is what we hear true? And what role is the UAE playing in this regard?

Al-Nu'aymi: You know that the UAE is entrusted by the GCC to make contacts with Iran on behalf of the GCC states, primarily to ease the severity of disputes and compulsive reactions in order to achieve permanent peace.

Kuwait maintains relations with Iran. It has an embassy in Tehran where diplomats are carrying out their duties. The situation is now suitable for developing better relations.

Regarding Saudi Arabia, there is no dispute between the GCC states, foremost among which is the Kingdom and Iran, other than the war issue. Now that the war has ended and subsided, matters must now proceed normally and relations of good-neighborliness must be established.

Relations between the Kingdom and Iran are severed at present, but, now that the situation that led to the severance of relations has been eliminated, we hope that relations will return to play their role.

We also hope that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and Iran, as two Muslim countries, will return to play their role in leading Islamic action in the Islamic world. But that is also linked to the achievements that Iraq and Iran make in their negotiations. When the Iraq-Iran negotiations produce better results, relations will develop and improve further.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that Iran has turned the page of exporting the revolution?

Al-Nu'aymi: We do not understand what the export of a revolution means. Revolutions are not exported normally. Revolutions must succeed in their country in order for the world to accept them.

AL-HAWADITH: Has the Iranian revolution failed inside Iran?

Al-Nu'aymi: I am not saying that the Iranian revolution has failed inside Iran. I am saying that when revolutions succeed in their countries, other states and peoples learn from it.

For instance, take the French revolution: It brought justice, equality, and rights to France, so other peoples and states learned from it. Revolutions are not goods one can export or import.

Undoubtedly the Iranian revolution brought ideas and created a situation in Iran and the Islamic world. Some of these ideas are acceptable in terms of Islamic principles, others are not.

But the Islamic revolution must prove its presence in Iran in order for the Islamic world to see how beneficial that revolution is and, consequently, take what is sound and discard what is unsound.

AL-HAWADITH: Frankly, what is Iran today? And what will it be tomorrow?

Al-Nu'aymi: Iran today is searching for peace. It is carrying the heavy burdens of the war as well as the negative aspects of the revolution.

As for tomorrow's Iran, it is looking at the positive aspects of the revolution as well as better relations with the world.

Yesterday's Iran created many enemies for itself. Iran will now probably try to make many friends. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: It has been noted that the West, especially the United States and Britain, hastened to warm up relations with Iran while launching a media campaign against Iraq at the same time, accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons against the Kurds.

Does not this spontaneity have a political meaning, especially as Iraq is the victor of the war and the stronger party in the negotiation equilibrium?

Al-Nu'aymi: I believe that the purpose of the campaign is to pressure Iraq. It is improper and would not achieve the true and just peace we seek for this region. Under such campaigns and pressure there will be no justice.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the real reasons behind these pressures? And what is required of Iraq?

Al-Nu'aymi: I do not really know what is required of Iraq. But the objective of these pressures is probably to ensure that negotiations will be held quickly in order to expedite development and trade operations as well as the sale of commodities.

Because these states have made promises to their peoples and prepared their factories, they want to end the negotiations quickly. So the question is a commercial one as far as some states are concerned.

AL-HAWADITH: It is no secret that there were trade relations between the UAE and Iran during the war. Has this relationship constituted an obstacle to relations with Iraq?

Al-Nu'aymi: Trade between Iran and the UAE is both limited and simple. The UAE is neither an industrialized nor a producing state. It is an intermediate.

Most trade used to go to the Iranian coast of the Arabian Gulf so our Arab brothers residing there could benefit from it. We deal with our Arab brothers who reside on the Iranian coast on a historical basis. We could not see them needing food or clothes.

The trade has not been in the form you mentioned, as if it were large-scale trade affecting the war. No, it is simple trade with a small part of the other coast. Our relations with Iraq are brotherly Arab relations and have never been affected.

AL-HAWADITH: What about Iraqi-Syrian relations and their impact on the Arabian Gulf?

Al-Nu'aymi: It is in our interest for there to be cordial relations among all the Arab states and brotherly relations between Iraq and Syria because they are one people.

In our common Arab action, we have always believed that when there are good and cordial relations between Syria and Iraq, we will be able to achieve good Arab solidarity.

AL-HAWADITH: Are any endeavors being made and by whom?

Al-Nu'aymi: Certainly. Endeavors have always been made. We gratefully acknowledge the fact that His Majesty King Husayn has played a great role in this regard. The GCC states, too, have made their efforts. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: In a press interview the Omani foreign minister said Iran is ready to help release the hostages detained in Lebanon.

During your contacts with the Iranians, did you sense such readiness?

Al-Nu'aymi: Iran has always said that it is ready and that it is making every effort to release the hostages in Lebanon. This is a declared stand. The Iranian foreign minister said in Geneva that Iran is making efforts.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you mean that these efforts have not borne fruit because Iran has no authority over those detaining the hostages?

Al-Nu'aymi: This is something I do not know. I do not know the extent of Iran's or others' authority in Lebanon. What we know is that in Lebanon there are many parties which may agree or differ with Iran.

AL-HAWADITH: During the war and ship-escorting operations, the United States requested facilities from the Gulf states.

What does Washington want now from the Gulf states?

Al-Nu'aymi: At present we have no specific requests from Washington.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you see the U.S. relationship with the GCC states at present and in the future?

Al-Nu'aymi: It is normal and traditional. The GCC states maintain balanced relations with many states. These states have begun to open up.

In the past they had no relations with the Eastern bloc. But they have now begun to open up within the framework of balanced relations.

U.S. relations with the GCC states are relations of mutual interests.

AL-HAWADITH: If we look at U.S. relations with the GCC states and Soviet relations with these states, we will, of course, see no balance in them...

Al-Nu'aymi: Certainly. Because the person we have dealt with for 100 years is not similar to the person we began to deal with just 2 or 3 years ago. You tend to share more interests with someone you have known for a long time. And these interests reflect on relations.

Relations between the GCC states and the Eastern bloc are good and developing and improving quickly.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you in the GCC believe that the U.S.-Soviet detente has a common concept regarding the Arabian Gulf region?

Al-Nu'aymi: U.S.-Soviet detente serves peace everywhere. The Gulf region, as an important strategic region, benefits from such detente. The more this detente grows and develops, the more dealings and benefits are secured for all parties, Gulf or international parties.

The Gulf region is important because it contains a strategic commodity that the whole world needs. When there is tension in relations between the two superpowers, there is concern in the Gulf.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you mean there is no U.S.-Soviet polarization of interests in the Gulf region?

Al-Nu'aymi: One cannot say that polarization can be ignored. But the extent of its strength is important. There is now agreement over many matters. And when there is agreement over future matters, we in the Gulf feel secure and stable. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The region's economic state is not as healthy as it used to be: Oil prices are decreasing and oil is being pumped in large quantities. Does this not pose a threat to the economic future of the region?

Al-Nu'aymi: If we wanted to explain why oil prices have reached the present stage, we would need a long interview. But briefly, it can be said that a front was formed to fight the oil-producing countries. That front has worked for many years.

Moreover, the oil produced outside OPEC exceeds that produced by the OPEC states. So the role of OPEC members has become limited, thus affecting the situation.

Third, world industry has not developed at the speed or in the way hoped for, because of the economic situation.

Fourth, alternative energy resources that have been secured constitute another reason. But there is nothing now called flooding the oil market; the situation is the result of these conditions. I am putting it in a nutshell, as there is much to be said in this regard. [passage omitted]

President Receives Message From Omani Sultan

JN1110203788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, has received a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman on fraternal bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

The message was conveyed during a meeting held this evening between His Highness Shaykh Zayid and Omani Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Muhammad ibn 'Abdallah al-Hana'i.

The meeting was attended by Presidential Office Director Shaykh Surur and Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Sa'id al-Raqbant.

State Minister Meets Brazilian President

JN1310084488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Oct (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Brazilian President Jose Sarney last night.

Rashid 'Abdallah has also met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre as well as the head of the higher federal court, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, and a number of senior Brazilian officials.

During these meetings, they discussed relations between the UAE and Brazil and ways to enhance them in various fields.

AL-BAYAN on Carlucci Remarks Over Gulf Presence

JN1310212488 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Oct 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Alternatives Required From the United States"]

[Text] The statements made by U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci—during the interview he gave to the Saudi magazine AL-MAJALHA to be published today—

on the continuation of the U.S. military presence in the Gulf, represent the first official confirmation of the United States' intentions regarding its presence in the region during the stage of rebuilding peace.

Carlucci explained: The United States is looking forward to reducing its naval presence in the Gulf. However, it is not considering total withdrawl from the region.

This explanation comes as clear evidence that the United States insists on playing the role of policeman in the Gulf, particularly when the U.S. defense secretary justifies this by saying: The U.S. naval forces have been present in the Gulf since World War II. Besides, these are international waters.

However, in contemporary international relations, what is international is not open to foreign powers or their presence condoned. These relations take into account the sensitivity of the countries of any open, international region toward this foreign presence and toward the extent to which these powers trouble the region's security and stability.

The United States—not only a superpower but also one of the two main superpowers in the world—should have reassesed matters according to a new balance and standards. These standards should be based on the principles of behavior for a major power, on which many countries of the world rely greatly to make peace and to strengthen its foundations, not to blow up its first signs and kill its blossoms.

Due to its knowledge of the region, Washington knows well that the Gulf has always been a region of peace and benevolence for its people and that the Iraq-Iran war was only a transient issue, the consequences of which have, God willing, ended once and for all.

The determination to achieve peace is entrenched in every Gulf resident because he is a civilized man as a result of his religion, upbringing, and environment.

Peace is in the nature of the Gulf's sons and they inherit it. As a result of their original civilization, they do not reject any civilized cooperation for which the means and the aim are good.

However, they reject any foreign intervention in drawing up their destiny and determining their future or any form of guardianship over them, even indirectly.

If, through its fleet, the United States has in the past played a specific role at a certain period in time, then this period has ended, God willing, once and for all. With its disappearance, there is no justification for the continued U.S. military presence in the Gulf.

In this interview, Carlucci should have proposed constructive alternatives on strengthening the peace process in the Gulf and ways to participate in the rebuilding and renovation of what the war has destroyed, materially and morally, in Iraq and Iran, instead of renewing the affirmation that the U.S. fleet will continue its presence in the region.

Yemen Arab Republic

Deputy Premier Leaves for Aden Celebrations

JN1310140988 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member, left for Aden today leading a grand delegation to participate in our Yemeni people's celebrations on the 25th anniversary of the glorious 14 October revolution. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Defense Minister Meets With Khayrallah
JN1310144188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMt 13 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister, met with Sudanese Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil today.

The Sudanese minister expressed great appreciation for the warm accord he was accorded in Iraq and the genuine sentiments of brotherhood that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn expressed toward the fraternal Sudanese people.

The Sudanese defense minister extended an official invitation to his Iraqi counterpart to visit Sudan. He is currently on a visit to Iraq at the head of a military delegation.

Calls Visit 'Fruitful,' Departs
JN1310194488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Sudanese Defense Minister 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil and his delegation left Baghdad today following a weeklong visit to Iraq.

In a pre-departure statement to INA, the Sudanese minister said that his visit to Iraq was fruitful and crowned by meeting President Saddam Husayn, who led his people and Arab nation to great victory.

He added: I learned several lessons from my meeting with the president. The most important of these lessons is that the entire Arab nation should confront the enemies. I also learned that Iraq has strong faith in Arab solidarity and joint action. [passage omitted]

Minister Returns From Jeddah Conference 12 Oct
JN1310073288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim returned to Baghdad last night after leading the Iraqi delegation to the first Islamic information ministers conference.

The conference concluded work in Jeddah earlier yesterday following 2-day meetings. It adopted resolutions on Islamic action in the information field and on confronting the trends hostile to both Islam and Muslims.

Ba'th Official Departs for PDRY Celebrations
JN1310131688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command, left Baghdad for Aden today on a visit to the PDRY.

He will attend the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the 14 October revolution and the passage of 10 years since the YSP was established.

Muhammad Hamzah told INA that he carries the congratulations and blessings of President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people to the leaders and officials of the fraternal PDRY on these two occasions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Iran-U.S. 'Deal' on Hostages
JN0810151788 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Oct 88 p 2

[Furat al-Jawahiri article: "Under Shabby Cover"]

[Text] In its issue last Friday, the new English-language Zionist newspaper THE NATION carried a report on a possible deal to be concluded between Tehran and Washington to supply Iran with weapons, equipment, and financial aid.

Despite the U.S. denial on the same day, fewer than 48 hours after this report a pro-Iranian terrorist organization issued a statement at its Beirut headquarters expressing its determination to release a number of its hostages in light of "changes in U.S. policy in the region," as the statement put it.

For the moment, which is not the first and will not be the last, the channels between Tehran, Tel Aviv and Washington and the information leaking from them have become clear enough so that no denial can be useful.

The aforementioned Zionist paper had earlier set the dates agreed upon between Washington and Tel Aviv [as published] for releasing one group of hostages during the 1st week of this month and another group during the 2d week.

The statement of the agent organization last Saturday confirmed reports on new secret deals between the Tehran government and the American "Arch Satan" similar to the Zionist-U.S. arms supplies to Iran in 1986 during the Khomeyniites' preparations at the time to carry out an offensive against Al-Faw.

Regarding the new deal, the U.S. denial was weak and announced the "possibility of the existence of other sides mediating to secure the release of hostages in Lebanon."

The United States has a long arm in using "other sides" as a cover for its previous direct deals with Iran or with representatives of Iran in the terrorist circles.

British envoy Terry Waite was connected to U.S. intelligence circles before he was a representative of British sides. The kidnappers revealed this fact when they detained Waite 2 years ago.

The results of any past negotiations between the United States and Tehran were not only characterized by the success in securing the release of a hostage or two, but also in supplying Iran with weapons, equipment, spare parts, and financial aid with the objective of prolonging the Iranian aggression against Iraq and shedding more blood in the region.

The U.S. cover used to secure the release of hostages is no longer useful in alleviating the pressure of the defeat of the Khomeyniite's hostility or the Zionist participation in the artificial respiration of the dying Khomeyniite body.

THE NATION: U.S.-Iran Hostage Talks Stalled

TA1410072688 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 14 Oct 88 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report by Giyora Shamis]

[Text] Jerusalem—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has thrown his weight behind negotiations between the United States and Iran, but the talks are being delayed because Tehran is unhappy with what Washington is offering for the release of the American hostages.

Well-informed sources in Tehran say Khomeyni has become active in the talks.

He has taken steps to support government leader 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who has once again staked his career on edging Iran back to normal ties with the United States and the West.

Iran's informal contacts with the Americans at secret locations near Lake Geneva reached a crucial phase following the release of Indian hostage Mitileshwar Singh in Beirut. The 85 year old Khomeyni, whose health has improved recently, intends to ensure the success of these talks.

Leaders of the U.S. and Iranian negotiation teams returned home for consultations this week, leaving skeleton delegations ready to resume contacts.

The delay in the resumption of negotiations is attributed partly to the reports on the talks.

U.S. officials, caught two weeks before the presidential elections, have been firm in denying such talks.

But the heated U.S. disclaimers have roused Iran's suspicions of what they can expect for the release of the hostages. Sources say these suspicions are encouraging Rafsanjani's radical enemies.

On Monday, Khomeyni sent his son Ahmad, to the holy city of Qom to see whether his heir-designate, Ayatollah 'Ali Montazeri, was behind the effort by radical clerics to block contacts with the United States.

So far, the Iranians say they're disappointed with the negotiations with Washington.

"All the U.S. and Britain are offering to date is long-term aid for restoring Iran's war-damaged economy and only through a friendly Third World nation," a senior Iranian diplomat in Geneva told THE NATION.

"But they have to understand our difficulties at home; we need some political gesture to restore our international respectability and show us that Western pro-Iraqi policies are evening out," the official said.

"These would not just be token gestures for us. Were it not for the hesitation of those governments, our talks would be nearing a favourable conclusion with the first hostages on their way home and the long years of Iran's hostility towards the West nearing an end," he said.

Already, Iran's cautious effort to move toward a reconcilitation with the West has been derailed.

Tehran's talks with Britain broke down last week after Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher refused to sanction an implied hostage deal.

Iran said that if ties were successfully restored, British church envoy Terry Waite would be freed in Beirut in 48 hours. The other two hostages would follow within a month.

British officials turned down the deal because they viewed it as a virtual deal with terrorists.

Another factor in the U.S.-Iran contacts is George Bush's improved showing in opinion polls.

Iranian sources say Tehran favours Reagan's vice president and thinks a release of hostages before November would hurt his chances.

In the long-term Khomeyni's intercession on Rafsanjani's side favors early freedom for hostages.

Delay will also weaken Iran's influence over the kidnappers as the revolutionary Shi'ites in Beirut have become increasingly edgy over Tehran's drift to pragmatism.

But Rafsanjani is now undoubtedly stronger in his battle with the radical mullahs headed by Prime Minister Mir Haseyn Musavi and Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

For them, keeping the hostages blunts any contacts with Washington and holds off any massive infusion of U.S. investment into Iran's shattered economy which could make Rafsanjani a national hero.

Further on Development of Ties with PRC

Visit Invitation Extended

TA1410075588 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 14 Oct 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Alan Lutzker]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—China has invited the next Israeli foreign minister for an official visit, the first such invitation by Peking THE NATION has learned.

The invitation is for the foreign minister to visit China as soon as the next Israeli government is formed after elections on November 1. China does not have relations with Israel.

The Chinese invitation was delivered to Yitzhaq Minervi, director of the Foreign Ministry economic division. Minervi signed agreements for two joint projects in Peking.

The Peking government promised to open a mission in Tel Aviv after the foreign minister's visit. The government also approved the establishment of a so-called Israeli academic mission in Peking.

The mission would represent Israeli research and also serve as a consulate. [passage omitted]

No Reaction to PRC Denial

TA1310171388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman has refused to react to the PRC Foreign Ministry spokesperson's denial of reports that the two countries are maintaining contacts regarding joint commercial and academic projects.

Mr Alon Li'el said in Jerusalem that the Foreign Ministry has not reacted to reports on this issue and has no intention of reacting to the denials coming from Beijing.

The PRC spokesperson said that China has no intentions of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. She also denied the report that Yitzhaq Minervi, assistant director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, is currently in Beijing.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports, however, that Yitzhaq Minervi is indeed conducting economic talks in Beijing at present.

Trade Ties With PRC Outlined

TA1310174388 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 13 Oct 88 p 7

[Report by Ronit Yo'eli in Beijing and Avi Kertin]

[Excerpt] Trade and economic relations between Israel and the PRC were established in 1981-1982 when Israel began consulting and selling products to the PRC in the civilian electronics field.

Trade between Israel and the PRC for last year is estimated at some $15 million, of which $10 million is in exports.

The main civilian trade between the two countries is largely made up of purchases by the PRC in Israel. The Chinese buy polyvinyl chloride, various chemicals, fertilizers, potash from the Dead Sea Works, and other industrial chemicals.

Over the past 4 years the Chinese have purchased technology for constructing civilian factories and production lines mainly for oil and fertilizer plants. Israel mainly purchases consumer products from the PRC such as household goods, furniture, and toys. Israel also buys food products such as rice, sesame, and pumpkin seeds.

A large number of Chinese representatives have visited Israel. Most were industry and economics professionals, but some were members of academia. In recent years there have been visits by PRC officials for military reasons as well.

The most prominent PRC official who visited Israel is a member of the NPC [National People's Congress]. He was a guest of the Foreign Ministry. He visited industrial plants, among other things, and reported his visits to senior ministers of his government.

Several senior ministers in Israel's economic sector have held previously coordinated telephone conversations with PRC ministers. It is also known that the Foreign Ministry director general visited the PRC.

According to foreign publications, trade between Israel and the PRC is concentrated in the defense area. These publications report that Israel has assisted the PRC in overhauling various types of tanks and has provided information needed by them for producing ammunition.

It has also been published in the foreign press that Israel has sold various types of missiles and their production technology, and has refurbished fighter planes. [passage omitted]

Iranian Jews Reportedly Arrive From Vienna

JN1310125288 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 13 Oct 88 pp 32, 31

[Text] Israeli security sources have disclosed that 60 emigrant Iranian Jews arrived in Israel from Vienna on Israeli El Al Flight No 414.

They were received at Lod airport by representatives of the Israeli Ministry of Immigration Absorption and the Jewish Agency. Also receiving them were a number of their relatives from the Jewish Iranian community in Israel.

The new emigrants were transferred from Lod airport to the absorption center in Beersheba prior to providing them with permanent accomodation.

GDR Overtures for Political Dialogue Rejected

TA1410094088 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] GDR officials have recently signaled their intention to thaw relations with Israel and follow the example set by the rapprochement between Israel and other East European countries.

Israel relayed the message, through unofficial contacts, that as long as the GDR Government refuses to assume official responsibility for the death of millions of Jews who perished in Germany and East Europe during the holocaust, and as long as it fails to pay reparations to the victims' families, there is no room for any contact between the two countries.

The current signals from the GDR came as no surprise to the top Israeli political echelon. It seems that this is part of the general trend in Eastern Europe to thaw relations with Israel within the framework of the Soviet Union's glasnost policy. [passage omitted]

IMI Completes $500-Million Deal With FRG

TA1310111088 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Oct 88 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] Over the last few days, Israel Military Industries [IMI] sent the last shipment of goods to the FRG, completing the implementation of a deal to export defense products totaling $500 million from the IMI to the FRG.

The deal began approximately 2 years ago, following attempts by defense elements to stabilize the IMI's situation. After cutbacks in orders from the Defense Ministry and cuts in the defense budget, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin promised that an effort would be made to find foreign markets for IMI products. Today the IMI exports approximately 75 percent of its products.

Egyptian Proposal on Tabah Talks Rejected

TA1310173488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Oct 88 p 12

[Report by diplomatic staff]

[Text] Israel has informed Cairo that it cannot accept a proposal that officials of the two countries meet next week to discuss negotiations on the implementation of the Tabah arbitration resolution.

The proposal was included in a message from Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, conveyed yesterday by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni.

The Egyptians described the proposed meeting as a preliminary step before the start of official talks on the implementation of the arbitrators' decision to adopt Egypt's position on the location of the border markers at Tabah.

Basyuni was told that such a meeting could not take place because the inner cabinet had not completed its discussions on the arbitration, and because Foreign Ministry Director-General Avraham Tamir was scheduled to go abroad next week.

PLP Members in SFRY for 'High Level' Talks

TA1310171988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Oct 88 p 12

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Nazareth—Progressive List for Peace [PLP] MKs [Knesset Members] Muhammad Mi'ari and Matityahu Peled left Israel yesterday for Yugoslavia, where they are to hold what were described as high level talks with government officials, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

They were invited by the Socialist Alliance of Yugoslavia to discuss the Middle East situation and the state of the Palestinian movement.

The visit, at the height of the election campaign, had been kept secret and even took some leading PLP activists by surprise. Mi'ari and Peled are due to return to Israel at the weekend.

PLP election campaign chairman Hayim Hanegbi confirmed the visit to THE POST, saying that the invitation had been received earlier this week.

"We understand from the wording of the invitation that the Yugoslav government is assessing the situation in the Middle East in order to formulate a policy in the event that the PLO declares a Palestinian state and a government-in-exile," said Hanegbi.

"Yugoslavia has very close contacts with the Arab world and the PLO leadership. The invitation of the PLP follows weeks of intensive talks between Yugoslav officials and various elements connected to the Palestinian problem," he said.

It is thought unlikely that Peled and Mi'ari will meet with leading Palestinian representatives during their short stay, because of the PLO's involvement in preparing an agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council.

The Progressive List for Peace has maintained close ties with Yugoslavia in the past two years, notably to offset Soviet support for the communist-dominated Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.

Peled led a delegation of Israelis to Belgrade a year ago to meet with Yugoslav intellectuals.

HADASHOT Survey Shows Alignment Lead

TA1410104488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] The three polls represented below were commissioned by HADASHOT and conducted by the Teleseqer Institute under the directorship of Dori Shadmon. The latest poll was conducted between 6 and 10 October, after the beginning of the televised election advertisements.

For each survey 1,000 interviewees were questioned. They represent a cross-section from all over the country consisting of women and men above the age of 18.

The findings for the Arab sector, as shown in the September and October polls, were based on separate surveys conducted in that sector.

Party	6-10 Oct	Sep 88	Jun 88
Alignment	44	43	45
MAPAM	2	2	1
Citizens Rights Movement	7	6	5
Center-Shinuy	2	2	2
Total Alignment and Left	55	53	53
Likud	38	39	40
Tehiya	6	6	7
Tzomet	1	1	1
Moledet	1	-	-
Kakh	1	2	2
Total Likud and Right	47	48	50
National Religious Party	5	6	5
SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]	2	3	3
Ultraorthodox parties	2	2	3
Memad	1	1	-
Total religious parties	10	12	11
RAKAH	4	4	4
Progressive List for Peace	2	2	2
Arab Democratic Party (Darawshah)	2	1	-
Total	120	120	120

Islamic Fundamentalists Urge 'Faithful' To Vote

TA1310173388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Oct 88 p 12

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Nazareth—The fundamentalist Islamic Movement yesterday indicated for the first time that it is about to enter the political arena in Israel.

The movement, believed to have tens of thousands of followers, distributed pamphlets in this mixed Moslem-/Christian Arab town.

The leaflets, edged in black and addressed to Moslems "in the name of Allah," urged all the faithful to use their right to vote in the forthcoming elections "for the party of their choice."

It had been expected, following recent statements by its leader Shaykh Abdallah Nimr Darwish of Kafr Qasim, that the movement would support the Progressive List for Peace.

Instead, the flyers called on followers to vote according to their beliefs and conscience, adding that this time, unlike in the past, the movement was not instructing them to boycott the Knesset elections.

The most startling development, however, was the announcement in the pamphlet that the Islamic Movement intends to contest the municipal elections, due to be held after the Knesset elections.

Israeli Arab sources told THE JERUSALEM POST that this would be a major step marking the entrance of the movement into the political arena and laying the cornerstone of its future strategy.

Such a move would be a major blow to the communist-led Democratic Front for Peace and Equality which, until now, has been the main party in the Israeli-Arab sector.

Muslims Pressuring Christians To Emigrate

TA1310060288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The Catholic News Agency in Jerusalem says Muslim fundamentalists are putting pressure on Arab Christians to leave the country. The agency says they are offering Christians three times the value of their property on condition that they emigrate.

If the offers are refused, the agency says, then threats and intimidation follow.

The Muslims allegedly call their campaign the Islamization of the Palestinians.

Police Detain 10 Arabs for Urging Rebellion

TA1310202288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Galilee police this evening detained 10 residents from the village of Kabul in western Galilee who are suspected of having published a manifesto 2 days ago calling for Israeli Arabs to rebel.

Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports that the police today raided a printing office in the nearby village of Tamra, where the manifesto was published. Residents of Nabulus worked in this printing house.

AL-NAHAR on Palestinian 'Turning Point'

TA1310175088 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 Oct 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Leadership—Facing a Momentous Turning Point"]

[Text] In the wake of a series of meetings it held in Tunisia this week, the PLO Executive Committee recommended a declaration for an independent Palestinian state. The recommendation will be presented to the PNC for debate and approval.

This independent Palestinian state is to be established on the basis of UN Resolution 181 of 1947. The resolution was known at the time as the resolution for the partitioning of Palestine into two states, one Arab and the other Jewish.

This achievement is regarded as a victory for realism and pragmatism and a qualitative shift in the history of the Palestinian problem. Thus the PLO has become, in effect, the designee and principal party for settling the Palestinian problem.

Today the PLO is taking charge of affairs and bearing responsibility for adopting historic decisions. The Palestinian leadership has rejected all pressures exerted on it by Arab and other friendly countries to delay the adoption of this decision.

The PLO, however, is guided in its decisions only by the interests of the Palestinian people.

It is true that the PLO is accepting what had been turned down by our forefathers, but the current Palestinian and Arab realities obligate the Palestinian leadership to accept realistic proposals.

In the past we rejected the legislative council plan, the Peel plan, the partition resolution, and the boundaries of 1967. Yet every time we demanded what had been offered in the past, it was too late.

Today we are facing a momentous turning point in the conflict's history which places a heavy burden, fraught with doubt and suspicions, on the PLO. But the decision to establish a state is a historic and correct decision of historical significance and value.

The upcoming political settlement must pass through the PLO. There are numerous factors which allow optimism for reaching a solution to the complex Palestinian problem which has lasted 70 years.

On the Arab level, the Jordanian decision to disengage from the West Bank constituted an incentive for the Palestinian leadership to make historic decisions.

On the international level, our kinfolk's uprising in the occupied territories awakened world consciousness and has had a great impact in attracting world public opinion.

It is this immense development and far-reaching sympathy with the Palestinian people that have confused Israel and its ally, the United States.

Also, the international opening and the agreement by the two superpowers to resolve regional conflicts by peaceful means have made the possibility of reaching a solution to the Palestinian problem a conceivable goal.

We cannot but point out that the speedy reactions and the warm welcome inside the occupied territories for the decision by the leadership abroad to declare an independent Palestinian state constitute the greatest factor in support of this decision.

They also provide the leadership abroad with the confidence that its moves conform with the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and that it can embark on action and moderation in adopting decisions.

May God guide the leadership and aid it to bear this responsibility and adopt decisions that are fraught with dangers, but sacrifice and courage are among the features of the present phase.

Lebanon Coordinator on Deployment, Iranian Role

TA0710150388 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 5 Oct 88 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Yo'av Limor; date and place not given]

[Text] [Limor] How does Lebanon's inability to elect a president affect the security zone?

[Lubrani] I cannot give you a clear-cut answer because the situation in southern Lebanon and what happens in Beirut or the elections in Lebanon are not directly connected.

There could be an impact if the elected president were to be an absolute Syrian lackey. Because he is also in charge of the Lebanese Army, the president could have the Army join other forces to fight Israel. Although this has not happened so far, it could very well happen.

[Limor] Lebanese inhabitants moved to the south, to the quieter security zone, in the wake of the fighting between Amal and Hizballah.

Have any of them joined the South Lebanese Army [SLA], as you expected?

[Lubrani] Shi'ites are now more willing to join the SLA than in the past. This is not a dramatic process, but rather a new and ongoing one.

The Shi'ites want members of their community to see to their well-being, not only because Christian soldiers break into their houses and molest their girls, but also because they feel more "at home" with their own people—and that is only natural.

These problems have a dynamic of their own. It is quite a natural development, the result of a feeling of permanence. In other words, if at first they thought our presence in southern Lebanon was temporary, with time they realized that the situation was not changing and that Israel does not intend to alter its deployment. That is why they changed their perception about enlisting in the SLA or working in Israel.

[Limor] How many people moved to the security zone during the fighting?

[Lubrani] I think a few thousand. We considered this natural, and we opened the gates to them.

We investigated those who wanted to enter at the crossing points. Most of them were originally from the south, and they were just coming back home.

[Limor] In the meantime our slow withdrawal from the security zone and the transfer of posts to the SLA continue.

[Lubrani] That is correct. We are leaving any place we can. To be in a place needlessly merely exposes ourselves—it is an unnecessary danger and a financial outlay.

Our departure from such places also gives the inhabitants the feeling that we do not stay in a place for which they can take responsibility.

[Limor] Is the SLA now capable of taking over the posts in the security zone? Can the IDF leave the area and deploy only along the border?

[Lubrani] No, the SLA is not set up for that, and without automatic support from the IDF it will not survive. We are incapable of giving the SLA what we provide the IDF; therefore, the setup must function as one dynamic system in which there is movement: more SLA and less IDF over the long run.

[Limor] During the past 6 months the IDF and SLA initiated a number of actions beyond the security zone. To what extent does this deter the terrorists?

[Lubrani] This is an unavoidable method of deterrence. It is difficult to know the level of deterrence because we only know what has actually happened and not what has not occurred.

In my opinion we have saved ourselves an erosion in our position vis-a-vis the Hizballah by initiating actions against them. They want to destabilize the presence of the IDF and SLA in the security zone, and we do exactly the same to them in their territory.

For example, we send the Air Force on bombing raids deep into Lebanon not to show them that we exist, but as a deterrent and to interfere with various processes.

[Limor] Now that the Iraq-Iran war has ended, can we expect more Iranian support for the Hizballah and its actions against Israel?

[Lubrani] There are two opinions on that. The first is that since Iran has decided to concentrate on economic, social, physical, and political rehabilitation, it is cutting its link and reducing its readiness to pay a price for its influence in Lebanon.

The second claims that because of its current situation, Iran must maintain its capability and force in Lebanon, and for that purpose it will invest a great deal.

The Iranians spend some $60 to $100 million annually in Lebanon, a huge amount for all intents and purposes. Were I to try to think like a pragmatic Iranian, I would think it would be more important to invest the funds in rehabilitation rather than just to throw the money away. At least that is what I think will happen.

Further on Incidents, Unrest in Territories

Gaza Strip Lawyer Released

TA1010072188 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Oct 88 p 21

[Report by Roni Shaqed and David Regev]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Attorney Yunis al-Jarru, deputy chairman of the Gaza Strip Lawyers Association, was released at the end of the week from the Qezi'ot detention center in the Negev where he had been detained for 6 months under an administrative detention order. This was reported yesterday by Arab sources.

The sources added that the Lawyers Association plans to meet in the coming days to consider resuming its activities.

Maltreatment Allegations

TA1010065888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] The Army is carrying out a combing operation in dozens of villages in Judaea and Samaria this morning.

One youth was wounded by gunfire after throwing rocks at an army patrol.

The military police are investigating allegations that soldiers in a reserve unit recently maltreated residents in Judaea and Samaria. One member of the unit says the soldiers were ordered to take residents out of their homes, strip them, and then handcuff them. They were later said to have been taken to a citrus grove where maltreatment continued.

Arab Youth Killed by IDF

TA1310155488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] An Arab youth from the village of Jadidah in the Janin area was killed by IDF gunfire. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF unit searching the village was attacked with stone blocks and rocks. One of the soldiers sustained slight injuries. Once the soldiers realized they were in peril, one of them fired his gun, killing the youth.

In Hebron, an Egged bus was stoned today. One of the windshields was smashed, but no one was hurt.

2 Wounded by Plastic Bullets

TA1310172688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] A 10-year-old boy from Khan Yunus was wounded today by a plastic bullet fired by IDF soldiers while they were dispersing a riot by stone throwers in the city. The boy was hospitalized locally for treatment of moderate wounds.

Another 13-year-old boy was slightly wounded by a plastic bullet in the town of Bayt Lahiyah in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. He was treated for the wound and sent home.

In East Jerusalem it was mostly quiet today. A No 23 Egged bus driver was slightly wounded by a stone thrown as he was driving the bus on Salah al-Din Street.

Strike Marks Qibya 'Massacre'

TA1410080688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] A general strike is being staged today in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, commemorating what the Arabs call the Qibya village massacre. The event commemorated was a retaliatory operation carried out by the IDF in Qibya in the 1950's. A large number of civilians were killed in the operation.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the strike was initiated by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which supports the PLO, and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

This morning a youth was shot and wounded by IDF soldiers during a clash with the security forces in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza.

The authorities have imposed curfews on the refugee camps of Al-Nusayrat, Al-Shati', Dayr al-Balah, and on neighborhoods in Gaza and Rafah.

'New Turn' Seen in 'Uprising'

TA1410080488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The head of Southern Command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, has said the recent grenade attacks and bomb incidents in the Gaza Strip are signs that the Arab uprising is taking a new turn, and the army is prepared to meet this development. Gen Mordekhay was speaking during a tour of the area.

A new type of uprising calls for a new response from the IDF, he said. For the first time since the uprising began, the Palestinians are reverting to conventional terrorist weapons such as grenades and explosives.

In the past week or two, grenades have been thrown at army patrols. Two soldiers have been wounded, and a roadside bomb consisting of a gas balloon with a primer charge had been planted on the Gaza bypass.

The army was stepping up its intelligence activities, and Gen Mordekhay promised that those who threw the grenades would be caught, just like in the past.

A general strike has been called in the territories today in memory of the Israeli punitive raid against Qibya, the Jordanian police station, in 1953. This was in retaliation for the killing of two Israeli children by Arab infiltrators.

Last night, three Palestinian children were injured in the Gaza Strip during a disturbance when troops opened fire with plastic bullets.

'Terrorist' Squad Exposed

TA1410093988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The security forces have exposed the terrorist squad that assassinated the Biddiya village mukhtar over a week ago. The force demolished five of their houses and sealed off the sixth.

During the investigation the terrorists turned over the weapons they used in the assassination. Two of the mukhtar's sons were wounded in the shooting incident.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that one of the terrorists was released in the exchange deal with Ahmad Jibril. The security forces' investigation continues.

The Nabulus curfew was lifted this morning after being in effect for 6 days. The IDF distributed a leaflet in town calling on the residents to maintain order, and warning them that the army will not refrain from taking harsh steps against those who threaten security.

Rabin on Response to Violence, Political Solution
TA1210200488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin says the Palestinians, especially in the territories, should realize that their cause will not be helped just by throwing stones; they must also act politically. Violence will achieve nothing, said the defense minister.

Meeting with members of the Foreign Press Association today Rabin also warned that the Army will adopt different tactics to deal with any increase in armed attacks on civilians or soldiers. With more details, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

The defense minister said there are a number of weapons in the territories, pointing out that there have been three grenade attacks on soldiers in recent days, and that the murderers of the Arab mayor of Biddiya had used an automatic rifle.

Mr Rabin said it was his impression this was an indication that the Palestinians were recognizing their failure to get results by street violence, and returning to the old ways of terror.

Since King Husayn cut ties with the West Bank 2 months ago the PLO has failed to come up with anything but violence and terror, Rabin said. But, if a leadership would arise among the residents of the territories, a leadership that would be ready to talk, we would be ready, he said. Our hand is offered, but if it would be met by violence, then it would become a fist.

He said soldiers had been told to use tear gas, rubber bullets, and plastic bullets to deal with violence as it happens, but he also said he would be ready to reduce the number of troops in the territories and close down detention facilities if the violence were to end.

How do you expect us to deal with the situation?—by running away?, he retorted to one newsman who asked him about Army actions.

The defense minister repeated on several occasions during his talk that violence would be met by force, but said he was well aware of the suffering that resulted, adding that the sense of uneasiness over the necessity to deal with civilians, women and children, extended from privates in the Israel Army right up to the defense minister himself.

There is a whole gamut of opinions regarding this, said Rabin, but the violence had been initiated by the Palestinians, and I believe the soldiers understand why they have to deal with it. We are not going to give in to violence or run away.

Rabin acknowledged that the situation can only be resolved ultimately through negotiations in a political solution. He said this would have to involve both Jordan and the Palestinians.

I do not want to see a binational state here, or annexation of the territories, he said. As for talk of transfer or second class citizenship, this is racism to me, and racism and Judaism cannot go together. It undermines the values and the destiny of a Jewish state.

Shomron Promises Protection for Collaborators
TA1010070088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, recently several collaborators in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip have been hurt. In other incidents collaborators have been murdered.

[Shomron] First, it is quite clear why this is happening. You must keep in mind, however, that many thousands of Arabs are working in the Civil Administration and the local municipalities in Judaea and Samaria, and they are continuing to work there. This means that they feel safe enough to continue working there. We will react very sharply.

I have no doubts that we will catch the murderers and punish them severely. We will also continue to guard the workers, although our protection cannot be foolproof.

[Menashe] Nevertheless, how can the IDF protect the collaborators or the thousands of workers in the Civil Administration and the local municipalities?

[Shomron] You have to understand that in the political mentality of the territories, murder is not a new thing. At the same time, the inhabitants know that we are protecting them, and it is a fact that they take this for granted; consequently, they are continuing to work in the Civil Administration, in the municipalities, and in the villages. The feeling of security they have is sufficient. It is a fact that they are continuing to carry out their duties.

Youths in Territories Introduce Uniforms

TA1110160088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Oct 88 p 3

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Security elements have recently been noticing a new phenomenon of the intifada [uprising]: Youths, mainly those belonging to the Al-Shabiba youth movement, are trying to demonstrate military traits, if not with weapons then by ceremonial activity.

Those who follow the events in the area say that the youths have been trying to introduce uniforms to all the participants of the violent demonstrations. Large groups of youths can often be seen wearing blue overalls, sweatshirts, or track suits.

The terrorists' radio broadcasts from Baghdad and Al-Quds Radio have recently reported a new phenomenon of quasimilitary marches occurring in the West Bank.

Attorney General on Plastic Bullet Use Rules

TA1010071688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] The attorney general says that he has reviewed and endorsed the regulations given to soldiers governing the use of plastic bullets.

This was stated in a letter Attorney General Yosef Harish sent the chairman of the Civil Rights Association, 'Eli Natan. Harish added that he was told that the soldiers will study the regulations, and that only officers or soldiers undergoing specific training, who will be routinely subjected to scrutiny, will be allowed to utilize these bullets.

The attorney general emphasized that the hurting of individuals is not an end in itself. Rather, the purpose is to disperse violent rioters and prevent them from hurling objects, hurting people, or damaging vehicles.

Japan Protests Plastic Bullets

TA1010071088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] Japan today protested to Nahum Eshkol, Israel's ambassador in Tokyo, the use of plastic bullets to quell the riots in the territories. Ambassador Eshkol was summoned to the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo today.

Our correspondent points out this is the third time in the last few weeks that Japan has protested Israel's policy in the territories.

Launch of Ofeq-3 Planned for 1992

TA0710150088 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Oct 88 p 3

[Report by Arye Arad]

[Text] At the end of a debate held by Israel Space Agency's coordinating committee, director Prof Yuval Ne'eman told the DAVAR correspondent that the launch of Ofeq-3 is planned for 1992, which will be "International Space Year."

Prof Ne'eman added: "We hope the satellite and all its components will be absolutely perfect." The launch of Ofeq-2 is scheduled for next year.

Meanwhile, it was reported in the United States that NASA cooperates with Israel in two areas: the operations of the ground station at Bar Giyyora, and the planned launch of Hornets aboard the U.S. space shuttle, which will possibly be as early as next year.

The coordinating committee met on Wednesday for its first debate on the Ofeq-1 testing. It was noted in the debate that the life span of Ofeq-1 had been lengthened beyond expectations because of the very strict precautions taken by Israel Aircraft Industries.

The test showed that the Israeli satellite's solar collectors accumulated more energy than had been foreseen by its planners, enabling it to remain active longer.

"The farther the satellite moves away from the earth, the greater its ability to collect energy from the sun due to the absence of atmospheric disruptions," Prof Ne'eman said.

In his opinion, solar energy receptivity does not increase in direct proportion to the distance from the earth, and a distance of 50 km may double the receptivity.

Nuclear Power Plant Seen in Negev by 2000

TA1210062688 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 11 Oct 88

[Text] Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal inaugurated the first oil shale mine in the Negev's Rotem plain today (Tuesday), 11.10.88.

Minister Shahal said at the inauguration ceremony that his ministry has produced a plan under which approximately $500 million will be invested by the mid-1990s in the establishment of a power station generated by oil shale. The station is designed to supply 600 megawatts of electricity.

Mr. Shahal also said that there is a "good chance" that an atomic power plant will be established in the Negev by the year 2000. Within this context, the minister said that

by the end of the month an agreement should be reached with Israel Chemicals Inc. concerning the production of uranium from phosphates located in the Negev.

Norwegian Rejection of Heavy Water Pact Denied

TA1110182988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Jerusalem has not received anything from Norway signifying that the Oslo government has no intention of ratifying the accord initialed some 6 months ago on the use Israel made of heavy water it bought from Norway.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said this in reaction to a WALL STREET JOURNAL report that Norwegian ministers threatened to cancel the agreement reached between the two countries on the issue.

Incidence of Active AIDS Cases on Decline

TA1310173788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[Text] The reported incidence of active cases of AIDS is declining in Israel, contrary to the pattern in most other countries.

This was stated by Dr. Shlomo Ma'ayan of Hadassah's AIDS clinic, during the Jerusalem health symposium organized by the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

He said that the peak year for AIDS here was 1986, when 15 new cases were reported, followed by 13 in 1987. So far this year, there have been only nine reported active cases, and Ma'ayan predicted that by year's end there would be only one or two additional cases.

The reason for the decline, he told an audience of health professionals, was probably the greater caution being exercised by homosexuals, drug addicts and other high risk groups, and the checking of all blood supplies for the virus.

To date there have been 63 cases of AIDS in Israel, he said, which amounts to about 12 cases per million—compared with an incidence of 240 per million in the U.S. Over 100,000 cases have been reported worldwide.

President Thanks Ceausescu for Cable

AU1210124288 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 9 Oct 88 p 5

[Message from President Hayim Herzog to Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania; date not given]

[Text] To Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania,

I extend to you most cordial thanks for the greetings and best wishes you extended to me on my 70th birthday and for the wishes for peace and progress you conveyed to the Israeli people.

Hayim Herzog, president of Israel

Committee Official on Arab Support for Fund
JN1410105788 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Oct 88 p 1

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Dr Fu'ad Bsaysu, secretary general of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland, has announced that the committee has decided to hold bilateral contacts with fraternal states which have obligations toward the support fund.

He said that it has also been decided to hold the necessary contacts with various Arab and Islamic sources in order to provide financial resources to guarantee the continuation of action and to help the national steadfastness in the occupied territory avoid bearing the burden of basic living needs.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr Bsaysu added that the Jordanian-Palestinian committee has an urgent need for financial resources for the support fund activities over the next phase.

He indicated that the funds received from the committed Arab states since 1979—the beginning of steadfastness support activities—until now reached $401,852,264 from a total of $800 billion. [as published]

Dr Busaysu said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the only Arab state which has recently resumed the fulfilment of its contributions toward the support fund—supervised by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee. He said that Saudi Arabia transferred $19.5 million early this year.

On the recent meeting of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, Dr Bsaysu said: The committee conducted a comprehensive and full evaluation of the priorities connected with the activities of supporting national steadfastness in the occupied territory and compared them with the current financial situation of the support fund.

Concluding his statement, the joint committee secretary general said that any fulfilment of the financial obligations by the Arab states must help the survival of the existing establishments in the occupied territory, and ease the kinfolk's burdens resulting from the popular uprising.

Government Resolves Payment Terms on Exports
JN1310091088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Oct 88 p 6

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES Economics Correspondent]

[Text] Amman—The government has finally announced an agreement with Baghdad to finance $75 million worth of Jordanian exports to Iraq which were frozen in April for exceeding a $185 million bilateral trade quota.

The halt on exports has since caused great concern among industrialists over the future of the Kingdom's largest export market.

Industry and Trade Ministry Secretary-General Muhammad al-Saqqaf announced that letters of credits for Jordanian industrial goods exported to Iraqi public sector institutions, worth $15,508,716, would be released and covered by Jordanian imports of Iraqi sulphur equal to the same value. He said that exports to the private sector, worth $50,000,000, would be paid as follows:

—45 per cent of the value of each letter of credit to be paid from the 1988 trade protocol allocation.

—30 per cent of the value of each letter of credit to be paid from the 1989 protocol.

—The remaining 25 per cent would be paid after 24 months by importers, and at the exporters' risk.

Al-Saqqaf said that letters of credit for exports of table eggs, worth $8,963,760, would be extended or paid from the 1988 protocol allocation. This brings the total to $75 million.

In his statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, the ministry official pointed out that three lists were compiled containing the names of the concerned exporters, the value of their letters of credit and instructions how they would be financed.

He said the lists are available at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and at the Amman Chamber of Industry. He called on exporters to contact Iraqi importers to amend their letters of credit according to the new agreement.

Each exporter must apply to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman Chamber of Industry to obtain from a committee verification that raw material for exported goods were actually imported before the letters of credit were halted and that goods to be exported complied with Ministry specifications as to the percentage of local material used.

Al-Saqqaf said exporters must also obtain a certificate of origin for the goods to be exported from the Amman Chamber of Industry, verified by the ministry.

The announcement Wednesday of a final settlement of the export crisis with Iraq, over six months after its break in April, drew some positive and bitter comments from industrialists interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES.

"It is good we solved the problem at last," one exporter said. "But what I cannot understand is why did it take us so long to come up with this magic formula to finance the exports."

Another industrialist made a similar comment: "It is very typical for us to solve the problem after the damage has been done. The crisis has created a lot of confusion as to whether we can continue exporting or not, and whether we should keep up our volume of production. We have waited way too long."

A third exporter was more positive: "The solution reached with the Iraqi government is satisfactory. It is very important to us to stay on good terms with the Iraqis, even if it took so long to solve the problem. What I am really concerned about is our future trade with Iraq. This is what counts, and this is what we should concentrate on."

Disengagement's Effect on Trade Unions Viewed
JN1210143088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 Oct 88 p 22

["A Word" column by Chief Editor Rakan al-Majali: "The Nonprofessional Trade Unions"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank will be comprehensively implemented. Consequently, this decision will apply to the trade unions established before the 1967 war which have branches in the occupied territories.

There will be no problem for the trade unions with no branches. The application of the legal and administrative disengagement decisions solves an important point regarding Palestinian representation in the trade union sector.

For instance, it is well known that there is an association for Palestinian engineers, doctors, and others outside the occupied homeland. But, as is known, all members of these associations outside the occupied territory are members of the Jordanian trade unions.

A serious application of the disengagement decision requires the disengagement of links between the trade union branches in the occupied territories and the center in the capital. In fact, application of this decision is necessitated not only by the wording and seriousness of the disengagement decision, but also by the fact that the trade unions in our country are no longer trade unions, but sort of political groupings.

Because of their inability to work within the professional framework or raise the level of the profession as stipulated by the law of every trade union, the prevailing tendency is to seek the easy role of issuing political statements on occasions, getting involved in national mournings, glorifying this party, and condemning that one.

We do not say that trade unions should not participate in public work, but they should first play their professional role. For instance, what about doctors who turn into drug pushers by using certain drugs? What about engineers who make wrong designs and then one day this or that building is about to fall?

What about all cases of exploitation and deviation? What about the role of the trade unions councils themselves as an expression of the elected democratic framework in the service of the profession? I personally admit in my capacity as the oldest doyen among my colleagues—I was elected for six terms, first in 1977—that we are playing the role of a charitable society and this is a humble service rendered to the colleagues.

What we have done to serve the profession is very little. We must pay attention to this. We have held some seminars on the professional issue. However, what is required of us and others is that we should focus on developing the professional side and improving the standard of the profession.

Had the trade unions been professional only as indicated by their name which justifies their existence, there would not have been a political problem or a need to separate the branch from the center.

Although it is bitter to me and the trade unionists, it is fair to admit that the work in the pure professional side necessitates ability, persistence, and skill. This is because our political expressions serve as a cover for our inability to develop the profession.

Moreover, it is important to point out that the role of professional trade unions differs from that of workers unions. All the members of professional trade unions are governed in their work relations with the sides they work for or deal with by the labor law. However, the role of the professional trade unions is only a formal and moral one.

I would like to point to what some people say—that trade unions in the developed countries play great roles. The truth is that trade unions and professional bodies in these countries serve as social clubs, and the law that governs their relations is the labor law.

However, any trade union member who likes to play a political role can do so through parties, parliament, the press, and various government institutions.

Still, we have to say that whether the separation of the professional trade unions branches from centers takes place or not, they are still in an unenviable situation. They have chosen to be everything but "professional" trade unions.

They are for us, the doyens, a springboard to key positions in the government or society for personal purposes, showmanship, political outbidding, or other manifestations which have nothing to do with the professionalism emphasized by all trade union laws, ethics of the profession, and the responsibility and honor of matching words with deeds.

All this requires us to reconsider things so that the professional unions will be "professional" in reality, practice, existence, and influence.

'Professional Unions' Criticized

JN1210144188 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Oct 88 p 24

["A Word" column By Chief Editor Rakan al-Majali: "The Professional Unions and Disengagement"]

[Text] What we published in this column yesterday on the rectification of the professional unions' affairs in light of the disengagement [of ties between Jordan and the West Bank] decision, was not news, because we did not receive any response from any official on this subject.

The response was: The matter will be left to professional unions to rectify their affairs in light of their own laws, which all demand that their members must be Jordanian citizens.

What we said yesterday is connected to aspects of political sensationalism more than to the legal and administrative aspects or the literal application of the laws because giving a political stamp to the professional trade unions means that branches in the occupied territories must be affiliated to the Palestinian professional unions, associations, and bodies in light of the disengagement and the political practice.

We record the positive role played by the professional trade unions branches in the occupied homeland and their importance as a base to mass all political and social forces against occupation. Words must be united and stands must be stiffened.

Each organized framework, whether it is an institution, union, or council, is one of the national resistance pillars. But here, in Jordan, instead of supporting the trend on the inside [of the occupied territories] and backing steadfastness, what governs action is one-upmanship, recording of stands, differences, and conflicts among all the forces and trends in order to increase political fragmentation and to trade in losing and winning cards at the expense of professional action and at the expense of fundamental national issues.

As pointed out yesterday, we support the right of each person to play a political role. We also support the right of each organization to play a social and political role. But, to be able to do so, they—individuals and bodies—must play, within their first framework, their role in action, production, and public service. Then, they can have the ability, skill, and right to play their political role that they desire.

Yesterday, scores of people told me that the professional trade unions are not the right frameworks to practice political action. They said that this contradicts the peculiarity of these professional unions and their professional role.

However, they all demanded that there must be political parties and institutions and representative frameworks for popular action, beginning with local councils and ending with the parliament. This is a just demand, and I am certain that it will be realized.

But, the existence of such a conflict does not justify the departure from the professional peculiarity, because this is not the real reason. The real reason is that the professional trade unions' inability to play their roles makes them resort to justifications to cover this inability by taking the easy path, which is to record stands and wait for anniversaries to distribute blessings, curses, and compliments. We only want to say that this is not the main role of the professional trade unions.

Because this is the situation, the disengagement issue reflected itself on the political aspect of the professional trade unions' practices. This is something that the unions have drawn themselves into and which reflects on their indisputable legal reality.

We demand that these professional trade unions be professional first. When this is affirmed, they have the right to play any role in the service of the homeland and entire population in order to strengthen the sacred national unity and the pan-Arab direction—the safeguard for the life and existence of our nation.

Press Debates State of Professional Trade Unions

JN1310112088 [Editorial Report]

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic on 6 October publishes on page 22 a 900-word article by its Chief Editor Rakan al-Majli entitled: "The Nonprofessional Trade Unions" in which he criticizes the unions for engaging in politics (JN1210143088).

AL-RA'Y on 7 October publishes another 700-word article by its chief editor reiterating criticism of the professional trade unions (JN1210144188). In its 8 October issue, AL-RA'Y publishes the first readers' comments on Al-Majali's articles.

In his comment, Khaldun al-Subayhi supports Al-Majali's viewpoint, saying the unions need to reorganize their affairs and act as scientifically-minded action groups to develop the production and services sectors, not serve as "pressure groups." The unions, he adds, should use their millions in development projects, not deposit them in banks for interest and profit at the end of the year.

In its issue of 9 October, AL-RA'Y publishes on page 22, a 400-word article by Al-Majali incorporating a letter from another reader, Mundhir al-Husayni. In his letter, Al- Husayni asks:

"Why the writing about the unions these days, and what is the reason behind the belated awakening in the press concerning the unions? Has this anything to do with the speech rally which was scheduled to take place at the unions complex and which represented three different political trends and where the atmosphere was obviously tense? Is this the reason? Or is it because the petition which was signed by several trade union leaders and well-known figures but whose number did not exceed the fingers of one hand, while the other names were false? Is the press talk about the unions a prelude to decisions to reorganize their affairs in light of the decisions to sever the ties? If this is the case, then it is certain that the legal and administrative measures will have their impact on all institutions, not just the unions. So there is no truth in the claim that the professional trade unions are ignoring their particular fields and engaging in politics."

Commenting on the letter in the same article Al-Majali says: "We have no knowledge about the rally which was to have taken place at the unions complex except from what was published on the subject in one of the papers today. We also have no knowledge about the poisonous atmosphere and the political outbiddings. Furthermore, the memo referred to by Brother Mundhir was signed by only one of the trade union leaders; namely, my colleague Mamduh al-'Abbadi, doyen of the doctors. He indeed praised the [severance] decision, but not in the words attributed to him. He said: 'The disengagement of ties was a historic stand from a historic man in a historic position.'"

Nobody should pause much at this or any other memo when defining the unions' responsibilities and tasks, Al-Majli concludes.

Further to Al-Majali's reference to a rally at the unions complex reported in one of the local papers, Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 9 October publishes on its social page 13, the following report:

"Normally, a rally is postponed for lack of or poor attendance. But for a rally to be postponed due to massive attendance, this is unbelievable! It happened the first time at the unions complex when it was decided to postpone a rally on the concept of Arab unity. The rally, scheduled to take place Tuesday night, was postponed because 5,000 people from different areas amassed to hear an ideological dialogue between the rally's main speakers; namely, Dr Ya'qub Zayyadin [communist trend], Dr Ahmad Nawfal [Islamic trend], and Amin Shuqayr [pro-Iraq Ba'thist] with Eng Layth Shubaylat [former member of the House of Representatives] as moderator. The halls and grounds of the unions complex were crowded with people. However, the rally could not continue due to poor acoustics and high temperature, which prompted Eng Shubaylat to consult with the participants and announce the postponement of the symposium until further notice and at a date to be fixed later."

In its issue of 10 October, AL-RA'Y on page 22 publishes a 300-word report on the comments of another reader, Hani al-Sa'udi, who welcomes "the courageous self-criticism" exercised by Al-Majali concerning the professional trade unions in this country "which have chosen to become anything but professional unions."

Al-Sa'udi adds: "One cannot add more to this bitter self-criticism by an official from within the trade unionist movement. But as citizens and outsiders, we can say a great deal about the Doctors Union, with which we had many confrontations in past years with regard to reforming itself."

Al-Sa'udi voices a public appeal to the doctors to revise their fees in light of present economic conditions.

In its issue of 11 October, AL-RA'Y publishes on pages 22, 20, a 1,000-word report on the comments of another reader, Nimr al-Zanati, in which he urges that conditions in the professional trade unions be put to public debate, since the unions reflect "all our contradictions, or rather our social intermingling, on the political, social, and economic levels."

In its issue of 12 October, AL-RA'Y publishes on pages 24, 20, a letter addressed to Al-Majali by another reader, Dr 'Izz al-Din Farsakh, in which he says: First, trade unionism is part of the exercise of democracy. Second, trade unions, whether professional or otherwise, exist to defend the moral and material interests of their members. But as a grouping embracing a large number of citizens, they cannot ignore national and pan-arab issues.

"No rational intellectual denies the role of such unions in the political life of Western democracies," he says. While noting the Jordanian unions' achievements, Dr Farsakh still blames union members for not regularly attending union meetings, even when crucial issues are being discussed and important decisions must be made.

In its issue of 13 October, AL-RA'Y publishes on pages 22, 16 the last of the readers' comments under the following editorial caveat: "We have received a number of comments on the professional trade unions' issue. We have ignored those replies which had characteristics of personal accusations and defamation. With today's comment we close the debate on this subject."

In his comment, Eng Sa'id 'Ubaydat says it is natural for unions, which embrace thousands of intellectuals, to be affected by the present political circumstances experienced by Jordan.

He adds: Unions are democratic institutions which participate in national public opinion and reconstruction "to promote constructive and comprehensive dialogue" as Prince Hasan has often asserted in his speeches to the youth. I however, also support the point raised by the dean of the journalists when he exercised self-criticism by saying the unions were not established to become a political rostrum. Engineers, doctors, lawyers, and men of other professions are called upon to deal with modern technology as an essential basis for progress.

In its 13 October issue, SAWT AL-SHA'B on page 1 reports that the president and members of the Journalists Association handed a memo to Interior Minister Raja'i protesting encroachments on the professions.

Foreign Ministry Official Discusses U.S. Policy

NC1410083788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] On leaving the Patriarchate Seat in Bkirki this morning, Ambassador Faruq Abu al-Lam', Foreign Ministry secretary general, said that the purpose of the current intensive diplomatic moves is to once again raise the Lebanese question at the international level, something which he described as very useful.

After meeting with Patriarch Sfayr, Abu al-Lam' stated: It would be better if the United States paid attention to its own elections and let us take care of the Lebanese elections.

He added: Whenever an ambassador insists that the elections be held, I fear that they might not be held.

Chamber at Al-Najmah Square To Elect Speaker

NC1410082188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni today addressed an invitation to convene a Chamber session on Tuesday. The text of the statement follows:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 44 of the Constitution and Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the Chamber of Deputies' internal rules, the Chamber of Deputies will convene at 1100 on Tuesday to elect a speaker and deputy speaker and members of the Chamber Bureau. The session will be held at the Chamber of Deputies permanent headquarters at Al-Najmah Square.

Al-Huss Indisposed, Cancels Engagements

NC1410103188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss has cancelled his engagements because of his indisposition.

Mufti Khalid on Islamic Summit, 'Awn's 'Clique'

NC1310111388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Lebanese Republic, has announced his support for an Islamic spiritual summit meeting to discuss political issues with wisdom and coolheadedness. He expressed his satisfaction with Bkirki's [the seat of the Maronite Patriarchate] role and its political efforts.

Mufti Khalid maintained that anything issued by the Michel 'Awn clique is repulsive and not based on the exercise of democracy.

Mufti Khalid noted that he does not object to the continuation of the French initiative, provided it results in the complete salvation of the homeland and does not hurt sisterly Syria, and provided France reaches an understanding with Syria.

Mufti Khalid said it is wrong to engage in political projects that will lead to partition. Our primary task, he said, is to hold the presidential elections and then the elections to the speakership of the Chamber of Deputies. We must leave it to the Chamber of Deputies to debate the various ideas in a democratic atmosphere.

Mufti Khalid received the Maronite archbishop of Beirut, Khalil Abu Nadir.

'Nationalist' Parties Denounce Iraqi Aid

NC1310153488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Representatives of the nationalist parties and forces held a meeting today at the home of 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization. Present at the meeting were representatives of the Ba'th Party Organization, the PSP, the Amal Movement, the Communist Party, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, the Nasirite Unionists Movement, the Arab Socialist Union, the Workers League, the Islamic Grouping Movement, and the Democratic Popular Party.

The conferees discussed the latest developments on the local scene and issued the following statement:

The conferees have discussed the latest political developments, particularly the partitionist measures vigorously adopted by the Michel 'Awn-led military clique since the night of 23 September. The most recent of these measures was the appointment of a director general of public security, an appointment likely to be followed by other appointments and measures on the part of the partitionist clique.

Such grave developments prove that the partitionists are determined to press ahead with their partitionist schemes, which have the backing of imperialists, Zionists, and Arab reactionaries. The most glaring example of such backing is the unreserved support which the Iraqi regime has given toward the creation of a yet another Israel in the Arab world.

Saddam Husayn's regime is providing lavish amounts of weapons and financing to the fascist and partitionist forces with the aim of getting the Lebanese slaughtered and the civil war rekindled.

Saddam Husayn has already involved the Iraqi people in a destructive war, causing such havoc and disaster as will last for generations to come. However, weapons and

assistance by the Iraqi regime will not stop our people and their nationalist and progressive forces from continuing their confrontation with the new Israel and its advocates.

The Iraqi regime, its weapons, and its financial aid will not meet with a better fate than the American and Israeli troops did. Our people's struggling masses view the alliance of the Iraqi regime with Lebanon's neo-Zionists as further proof of that regime's traitorous and reactionary stance toward the causes of the Arab people.

The nationalist and progressive Lebanese parties and forces, as they denounce this crime by the traitorous regime of Saddam Husayn against our people, call on our masses and every section of our population to express their complete rejection through the staging of a general strike all over Lebanon on Monday, 17 October.

This will be a step that will be followed by other forms of protest in Lebanon, the Arab world, and the entire world, against those who foster schemes aimed at dividing the Arab world anew, beginning with Lebanon.

Phalangist Party Meeting Discusses Media

NC1310210388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The Phalangist Party's Political Bureau met under party leader Dr George Sa'adah at 1900 today. The conferees continued discussion on some party affairs, particularly the positions of the Phalangist media institutions, in light of the intensive meetings under way to complete the organization of these establishments.

It has been learned that the Political Bureau made a decision to assign Ilyas Rababi, secretary to the party chairman for information affairs, as chief editor of AL-'AMAL newspaper and political supervisor of the Voice of Lebanon radio, until the positions of these two institutions are dealt with radically.

It has also been learned that other decisions were made to upgrade the efficacy and productivity of some other institutions, in accordance with the new administrative, financial, and political party regulations. The objective of these decisions to make the utmost use of the potential to strengthen the party's stands and serve Lebanon's interests.

Israeli, Amal Operations in South Noted

NC1410062088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Israeli occupation forces and Lahd militia shelled the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah and the liberated areas north of Hasbayya in the South yesterday.

Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats raked the southern Tyre coast with large-caliber machineguns.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement has announced that one of its groups detonated an explosive charge near an enemy infantry patrol on the Al—Qantarah-al-Tayyibah Road at 1520 yesterday, killing or wounding the patrol members.

In another development, the Israeli position on (Saddanah) Hill in the Shab'a area fired flares over the (Jun'um) axis, after which Israeli armored forces advanced from the Shab'a heights to a point approximately 4 km inside the liberated area. The forces carried out a wide-scale combing operation.

In the meantime, UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has disclosed that fire from large-caliber machineguns hit close to the Nepalese UNIFIL positions in the Al-Hinniyah area.

Car Bomb Explosion, Casualties in W. Beirut

NC1410071788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Security sources have reported that an explosion caused by a booby-trapped Fiat automobile took place near Al-Dana gasoline station on Sabra street in West Beirut this morning.

The explosion left several civilian casualties and caused heavy material damage. Two unidentified dead persons were taken to Al-Maqasid hospital. Some 23 people were wounded. Al-Maqasid hospital has appealed for blood donations to save the lives of the wounded.

More on Bomb Explosion

NC1410074788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0720 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] According to civil defense sources, the explosion which occurred at 0900 this morning was targeted against the Syrian forces roadblock near the Al-Dana gasoline station in the Al-Tariq al-Jadidah area, and left

three dead and 32 wounded. Moreover, 15 automobiles were damaged and three buildings were destroyed.

According to internal security forces sources, a green 132 Fiat car rigged with 50 kgs of TNT, which was parked at a distance of 25 meters from the Al-Dana gasolinestation roadblock near a building used by the Syrian forces, blew up. The dead bodies of Suhayla al-Husayni and 'Ali al-Dinnawi were taken to the Al-Maqasid hospital. [passage omitted]

The Syrian forces threw a security cordon around the site of the explosion. Ambulances rushed to remove the casualties.

Syrian Soldier Killed

NC1410100188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Three persons, including one Syrian soldier, were killed and 32 others were wounded when a car bomb exploded this morning 50 meters from a Syrian forces roadblock near the Al-Dana gasoline station in the Al-Tariqah al-Jadidah area in West Beirut. [passage omitted]

Immediately after the explosion, the Syrian Army threw a cordon around the area and fired shots in the air to disperse citizens. This cordon prevented determination of the number of the Syrian casualties.

Khaddam Receives Soviet Education Delegation

JN1010125788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 oct 88

[Text] At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Gennadiy Yagodin, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Public Education, and his accompanying delegation. Higher Education Minister Kamal Sharaf attended the meeting. The talks revolved around cooperation between the two countries in the field of higher education.

Reportage on Visit of Soviet Economic Academician

Arrives With Delegation

JN1010175188 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus, 10 Oct (SANA)—A USSR economic delegation led by Academician Comrade Yevgeniy Primakov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, director of the World Economic and International Relations Institute, and member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, arrived here today on a several-day visit to Syria. The delegation, comprising a number of Soviet economists, will hold talks on developing Syria-USSR economic cooperation.

Comrade Primakov told journalists the aim of the visit is to look into prospects for further improving economic cooperation between the friendly countries and to compare notes on economic development.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN1310151588 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1438 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus, 13 Oct (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi met here today with Comrade Yevgeniy Primakov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and director of the World Economic and International Relations Institute.

They talked about relations between Syria and the USSR and ways to develop them.

Talks With Al-Asad

JN1310171688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] At 1300 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Yevgeniy Primakov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and director of the World Economics and International Relations Institute, in the presence of USSR ambassador to Damascus Aleksandr Dzasokhov.

The talks dealt with the Middle East situation in light of the latest developments in Lebanon and the Iraq-Iran cease-fire. The talks also dealt with Syrian-USSR relations and the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation in various spheres. His excellency the president asked Primakov to convey his greetings and best wishes to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and also to the Soviet leadership.

Holds News Conference

JN1410080088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Comrade Yevgeniy Primakov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and director of the World Economics and International Relations Institute, has asserted that his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi were useful and very successful. In a news conference in Damascus this evening, he said he briefed the Syrian friends on the steps of the current reconstruction process in the USSR, particularly the concentration on both the economic structure and foreign economic relations.

Comrade Primakov added that all the talks with Syrian officials stressed the need to promote economic relations. The USSR official said his country's political and economic relations with Syria are distinguished and largely depend on the unity of common interests.

Regarding his country's stand on the current situation in Lebanon, Primakov said: We are opposed to the partition of Lebanon and support a unified, independent, and nonaligned Lebanon, so we are opposed to anything which obstructs this. He asserted that the reconstruction process in his country will not affect political and economic relations with the Arab countries. He pointed to his country's continued support for the Arab cause and to finding a just settlement of this cause based on securing all legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to both independence and self- determination and the Israeli troops' full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1410132288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Comrade Yevgeniy Primakov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and director of the World Economics and International Relations Institute, left Damascus for Moscow at noon today, following a 5-day official visit to Syria during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad and senior party and state officials. He held talks on means to promote and consolidate the relations of economic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for plannning affairs; Comrade Aleksandr Dzasokhov, the USSR ambassador in Damascus; and Comrade (Aleksey Askarptin), minister plenipotentiary for economic affairs at the Soviet embassy [name and title as heard]; the embassy staff; and a number of officials of the state planning committee.

Comrade Primakov made a predeparture statement to a SANA correspondent in which he described his visit to the country as successful and fruitful. He said he was very happy with his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He also expressed happiness and satisfaction with the meetings and talks he held with senior party and state officials. He said these talks were constructive and useful. He said that the technical delegation accompanying him, which includes a group of Soviet scientists and economic experts, will remain in Damascus to continue meetings with Syrian economists.

Comrade Primakov concluded his statement by expressing thanks and gratitude for the hospitality accorded to him during his visit. He said Syria is a friendly country and we are always happy to visit this hospitable country.

AL-THAWRAH Marks Anniversary of Soviet Treaty

JN0810092088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Oct 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Firm Militant Relations To Boost Syrian-Soviet Relations of Friendship," AL-THAWRAH newspaper says: Syrian-Soviet relations have developed and grown in all fields for the mutual benefit of the two friendly peoples and for the interest of world peace and justice. On the 8th anniversary today of the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, the great importance of these relations based on confluence of principled views, friendship, and mutual interests emerges. Events have proven the firmness and strength of these relations. They have also proven their strategic nature and their solid bases laid down by the treaty and the meetings between President Hafiz al-Asad and Soviet leaders.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The past 8 years since the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation have proven that the strong and firm Syrian-Soviet relations have been entrenched and deepened through the treaty. As these relations are a strong guarantee for the Arab liberation struggle and for the mutual benefits between these countries, they also support the progressive militant course that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism—the course to which Syria and the USSR adhere and which constitutes a solid base for developing relations and deepening the common struggle to make it triumph.

AL-THAWRAH says: In his cable to Mikhail Gorbachev a few days ago, President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed his confidence that the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries which have strengthened and grown over the years and been proved solid by events will continue to develop and grow in all areas.

Information Minister Leaves for Jeddah 9 Oct

JN0910145788 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus, 9 Oct, (SANA)—Information Minister Muhammad Salman this morning left Damascus for Saudi Arabia to head the Syrian Arab delegation to the first conference of Islamic countries' information ministers to be held in Jeddah on Monday.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by the assistant information minister, heads of institutions, a number of people working in the field of information and media, and Saudi Arabian Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad al-Kuhaymi.

Afghanistan

Sharq Meets With Departing USSR Ambassador

LD1310180088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, had a farewell meeting yesterday afternoon in his office with His Excellency Yegorychev Nikolay Grigoryevich, ambassador and representative of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan, whose term of service has ended in Afghanistan.

According to another report, 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met yesterday afternoon in his office with His Excellency Yegorychev Nikolay Grigoryevich for a farewell meeting.

Biography of New Envoy Vorontsov Detailed

LD1310181288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The appointment of His Excellency Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan, which had been previously requested by the authorities of that country, has recently been announced.

A short biography of His Excellency Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov follows: Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov was born in 1929. He completed his higher education in the Soviet Union's Institute of International Relations.

Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov has extensive diplomatic experience and served as the Soviet ambassador to India and France.

Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov has held the position of first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union since 1986. He has been honored with Soviet medals and decorations and is fluent in English. Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov is married and has a daughter.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Airspace Violation

LD1310175388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] A spokesman from the Afghan Foreign Ministry reported that the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul, was summoned at 1130 today, Thursday 13 October to the Foreign Ministry, and the following points were made to him by the deputy head of the First Political Department.

The Afghan security authorities have reported that the Pakistani military forces are continuing to violate the provisions of the Geneva accords. For example, a Pakistani jet aircraft entered Afghan airspace at 1035 on 11 October 1988, flying at 700 km per hour.

This jet entered Afghan airspace of the (Kotal-e Nawa) region and after a 1-hour reconnnaissance flight in the Sarkani District, Konarha Province, left from the (Kotal-e Spina Soka) area.

Because of this action and the blatant violation by the Pakistani military forces, the Afghan Government hereby protests to the Pakistani Government.

While drawing the attention of the Pakistani authorities to their obligations under the Geneva accords and their respective provisions, the Afghan Government expects the authorities of this country to refrain from repeating their violations; otherwise, the dangerous consequences of such actions will rest on the Pakistani authorities.

Gulbuddin, Rabbani Groups Clash in Herat Suburbs

LD1310091488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 12, BAKHTAR—A result of armed clash between extremist bands of Gulbuddin and Rabbani in suburbs of Herat one person was killed and five injured. The clash also resulted in damage of properties to the local people.

Our correspondent reports from Herat that, a group of extremists was suppressed by armed forces in Shindand District, Herat Province. Thirty extremists were killed and fifteen others injured as a result of combing of operation there.

Fourteen ground to ground rockets, fifty rocket launchers, and a large amount of arms two weaponary depot have also been destroyed.

A group of reconciliables [as received] has been crushed in Konduz Province. The group and its ring leader Najmuddin, which were trying to transfer the robbed properties of the people from Guretepa [placename as received] to Hazrat, Imam District, Konduz Province, was suppressed by the Armed Forces, reports say.

'Extremists' Fire Missiles on Balkh Residences

LD1310093588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] During the past 2 days criminal extremists have attacked the residential regions of Balkh District, Balkh Province, by firing 103 surface-to-surface missiles.

Six persons including children, women, and elderly people were martyred and another 10 persons were injured. Eight residences and one shop were destroyed.

Islamabad: Qandahar Airport Cut Off From City
BK1410024088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured a military post of the Kabul forces near Qandahar city. Thus, contact between the city and the airport has been severed.

After fierce fighting, the mujahdin also captured an important military base in Paktia Province, inflicting heavy casualties to the Kabul forces.

While capturing a military center in Ghowr Province, the mujahidin killed 12 soldiers of the Kabul administration and captured 10.

Council of Ministers Discusses Imports, Exports
LD1110212188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] The session of the Afghan Council of Ministers chaired by Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of Afghanistan, was convened today at the council's headquarters. A number of issues on the agenda were discussed and some decisions were made.

At today's session there was discussion about the formation and approval of an Afghan-Libyan economic as proposed by the Ministry of Planning. The formation of an Afghan-Libyan economic cooperation commission headed by Ghulam Rasul Rasuli, minister of education and training, was approved.

To stabilize prices and to assist compatriots, the Council of Ministers also approved that all foodstuffs with protein such as chicken, beef, fish, and eggs, imported by government enterprises, attached to the Ministry of Commerce, and having fixed government prices, are to be exempt from import taxes.

The session approved the 1989 list on export and import items between the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR in line with the 3 months' increase in consumption of foodstuffs and petroleum products needed in the capital and in the provinces. This list was earlier endorsed by the Ministry of Planning.

The Council of Ministers stated that talks with the Soviet side should begin concerning commodities needed and a protocol should be concluded on the exchange of goods between the two countries for 1989 with the results to be presented to the Council of Ministers for a final decision.

At today's session the Council of Ministers also decided that the Ministry of Commerce, in order to observe the principle of the just distribution of [licences for] importing goods from the Soviet Union, should regulate the future distribution of [licenses for] importing goods in return for exports to the Soviet Union by the traders in consultation with the export unions and national traders, so that the present complaints in this respect by the national traders can be removed.

The traders and export enterprises who are entitled to import goods in return for their exports to the USSR, after specifying the items to be imported, are to be introduced to the USSR trade agency in Kabul by the central departments of the Ministry of Commerce for concluding contracts, and the procedures for this will be controlled.

Amnesty International Accusations Rejected
LD1210085488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 11, BAKHTAR—International Amnesty Organisation, IAO, whose headquarter is in London in its annual report has once again accused the Republic of Afghanistan on the contravention of human rights in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The experience has shown that hullabaloo on the contravention of human rights in Afghanistan all and all emanates from the Western propaganda media. The accusation of the Republic of Afghanistan for the contravention of human rights by the International Amnesty Organisation is not based on facts and there is no reason for its proof.

In Afghanistan, there is a legal system and it has a constitution in force in which all provisions of human rights have been observed and is in full conformity with the Islamic traits and traditions of the people of Afghanistan.

Contrary to the baseless report of the International Amnesty Organisation, Afghanistan not only does not contravene the human rights but it has also released over sixteen thousand political prisoners after the announcement of national reconciliation and has provided necessary facilities for the returnees. So far, over 160,000 Afghan refugees have returned home and have received the state's assistance.

The Republic of Afghanistan had earlier invited a delegation on UN Human Rights Commission in order to study the state of human rights in Afghanistan. Professor Felix Ermacora, special reporter [as received] of the UN Commission on Human Rights has so far visited Afghanistan twice and had meetings with the president of the Republic, prime minister, the speakers of the House of Representatives and the Senate, foreign minister and other high-ranking Afghan figures. He also visited prisons in the capital and provinces.

This person has not so far stated anywhere that the people of Afghanistan are being unreasonably tortured or executed. Therefore, it is clear that such accusations are only made by the inimical circles.

Now, the question lies here that why human rights advocators who unduly accuses the State of Afghanistan on violating the human rights are silent vis-a-vis the real violators of human rights, the extremists.

Which forces put the American Stingers, British Blowpipe missiles, the long-range ground-to-ground missiles and the other weapons at the disposal of Afghan extremists causing bloodshed for thousands of innocent people?

The crux of the matter is that the same forces which are the real violators of human rights in the Republic of Afghanistan want to conceal from the public opinion their own violations from the declaration of the UN human rights but they can no longer deceive the world people by this way.

Bangladesh

Japan Signs Notes for Food, Equipment Assistance

BK1110142388 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Bangladesh is to receive from Japan over 1.61 billion taka under two separate exchange of notes signed in Dhaka today. Under the first exchange of note, Japan will give over 440 million taka for the procurement of food grains from abroad. The food grains will be distributed in Bangladesh through rationing and open market sale.

Under the second exchange of note, Bangladesh will get 1.17 billion taka. This amount will be used for procurement of equipment and machinery for improved sewerage system.

The Japanese ambassador, Mr Takeo Iguchi, and a senior official of the external resources division signed the notes.

Delegation Leaves for Pakistan for Trade Talks

BK1310023488 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] A high-powered Bangladesh delegation has gone to Pakistan to discuss ways and means for further expansion and diversification of bilateral economic and trade relations.

Planning Minister A.K. Khandokar left Dhaka yesterday on a 4-day visit to Pakistan at the head of the 12-member delegation.

The delegation, which includes the state minister for commerce, during its stay in Islamabad will also finalize and sign the agreement for a $50 million state credit for purchase of machinery and engineering goods from Pakistan.

The soft-term credit was offered during a visit to Bangladesh of Pakistan's federal minister for planning, finance, and commerce, Dr Mahbubul Haq, in July last.

India

Pakistani Charges of Causing Floods Denied

BK1310163688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Official sources in New Delhi today described as factually incorrect the reports in Pakistani media that recent floods in that country have been caused due to sudden release of stored water by India into the rivers Ravi, Chenab and Sutlej.

The sources said the Government of Pakistan is fully aware of the very heavy rainfall over whole of northwestern India last month which caused devastation and havoc in the states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir.

There is no storage constructed by India on the rivers Ravi and Chenab so far. The Salal project on Chenab is a run of the river plant and the entire storage up to full pondage level is only dead storage. The question of release of stored water into Pakistan from these two rivers does not, therefore, arise.

The sources said while the Government of India extend their sympathy to victims of flood havoc in Pakistan, it is hoped that the Government of Pakistan will also appreciate that during such natural calamities mutual recriminations are best avoided by taking an objective view of the whole matter.

Our correspondent reports that diplomatic sources in New Delhi described Pakistani attempt as a typical example to externalize their domestic problems.

Kenyan President Meets Gandhi, Discusses Issues

BK0810033288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Oct 88

[Text] The Kenyan president, Dr Daniel Arap Moi, had talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi last night. The 45-minute meeting discussed, among other things, bilateral and international issues. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, was also present.

The visit of the Kenyan president is considered significant in view of the forthcoming visit of Mr Gandhi to China as Mr Moi is the first foreign dignitary to come to India after visiting China. The two leaders also discussed strengthening of bilateral ties.

Dr Moi, who leaves for Kenya today, was received at the airport by the prime minister and other dignitaries.

Leaves After 12-Hour Visit

BK0810095688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Oct 88

[Text] President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya left New Delhi for home this morning at the end of his 12-hour transit visit. He was seen off at the airport by the textile minister, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha and senior officials.

Dr Moi expressed satisfaction over his talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The two leaders met for about 45 minutes and discussed bilateral, regional, African and international matters.

President Moi said that he has invited the president, Mr Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to visit Kenya for the 25th anniversary celebrations in December.

He also disclosed that India has agreed to take more Kenyan students in Indian universities.

After the United States, the highest concentration of Kenyan students is in India.

15 Killed in Party Clashes in Tripura

BK1410032588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The Tripura government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the clashes between supporters of the Congress-I and the CPI-M at (Birchandramanu) on Wednesday [12 October] in which 15 persons, including a policeman, were killed and four others seriously injured.

The state home minister, Mr Sumir Ranjan Barman, told newsmen in Agartala that three persons have been arrested in this connection. Prohibited orders under Section 144 CRPC [banning assembly of five or more persons] have been promulgated in the area to prevent any untoward incident.

Mr Barman said the situation is fully under control and additional police forces have been rushed to the spot. He appealed to the people to help the government to maintain peace and harmony in the state.

The chief minister, Mr Sudhir Ranjan Majumdar, has condemned the incident.

11 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab, Delhi

BK1310162088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] In Punjab, security forces have nabbed 10 terrorists in the last 24 hours. Seven were arrested from Hoshiarpur and three from Amritsar District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from their possession.

Delhi police have also arrested a terrorist involved in a remote control bomb explosion in Phagwara on 26 May in which 4 persons were killed and 25 seriously injured.

4 Policemen, 1 Civilian Killed in Punjab

BK1410033088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead five persons, including four of the security forces, in Ludhiana last night.

According to an official spokesman, some terrorists armed with automatic weapons opened fire at a naka [patrol] party, killing two policemen and two homeguard personnel and a passer-by. Two persons were injured in the attack.

Civil Air Transport Pact Finalized With PRC

BK1310161988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Officials of India and China have finalized the text of a proposed agreement on civil air transport between the two countries.

During their 3-day talks in New Delhi, the two sides discussed matters relating to various aspects of air transport and promotion of tourism.

Daily on Objectives of Gandhi's China Visit

BK1310113988 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Sep 88 p 4

[Editorial: PM's China Visit]

[Text] India's China policy demands, at this point, hardheaded circumspection. The Prime Minister is under pressure to clinch a border settlement, and that is why the matter has to be dealt with care.

The Prime Minister is being urged to accept a settlement on terms which, shorn of verbiage, can be identified as those of China.

Leading the pressure group on the Indian side are those who, until U.S. President Richard Nixon visited China and signed the Shanghai Communique, had blackguarded the governments of Nehru and Indira Gandhi for not going to war to retrieve India's lost territory from China.

It is not our case that only those who changed their position on China in line with Mr Nixon's are pressing for a quick-fix solution of the border dispute.

There are some who honestly believe that Beijing is willing now for an honourable settlement with India. Like many Indians, we want all measures necessary to improve and broaden China-India relations.

The irreversible geographical situation, cultural ties and the fact that the two countries were never adversaries in the past make it possible for them to recapture the good neighbourly relationship the events of the 1950s and 1960s disrupted.

In retrospect, there need have been no trauma in Sino-India relations had the People's Republic of China refrained from acting in the manner it did.

As India attempts to rebuild her ties with China, it is necessary that she does not repeat the blunders of the fifties and takes no precipitous decision or action.

The Prime Minister has indirectly confirmed that he is to visit China soon. Hopefully, careful groundwork preceded this important decision.

There is no evidence yet of any progress made to bridge the differences on the Sino-Indian borders.

But this need not delay normalisation, indeed improvement, in the two countries' relations. If Beijing is unwilling to consider sectoral agreements on and demarcation of the borders then it should be possible to expand trade, cultural and technological ties between the two.

India and China ought to have periodic meetings at senior ministers' level to exchange views on global and regional issues. Doubts about each other's intentions, where these impinge on the territorial integrity and security of either side, should be discussed with frankness and dispelled.

The Prime Minister's coming visit should not be seen as "upgrading" the border talks with China. His is a goodwill visit. It is unclear why Mr Rajiv Gandhi should have said what he did at the press conference in Delhi on 27 September.

His statement that he is not going to cede any piece of land "while I am in China" is open to the interpretation that he is going to China to finalise a border settlement, but he would not, while in China, take a final decision on any part of the agreement which entails cession of Indian territory.

Such an interpretation would be unfortunate on two counts. It would imply that there can be no border settlement with China unless India surrenders territory; and that the Prime Minister could cede Indian territory to another country.

The latter is not the position in the Indian Constitution. Only Parliament, by an amendment of the Constitution, can change the territorial definition of India. But it is not our understanding that the Prime Minister, while in China, would conduct border negotiations.

As Mr Indrajit Gupta, the leader of the CPI in the Lok Sabha, has said, border negotiations are best left to the officials on both sides. This is not the stage when Mr Rajiv Gandhi should be intervening.

Daily on Violent 'New Situation' in Kashmir

BK1310021788 Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Sep 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Guns in Kashmir"]

[Text] While the nation's attention has remained largely focused upon the seccessionist outrages in Punjab, there is cause for concern over an ill-noticed but apparently considerable deterioration in the situation in another border-state with a longer history of anti-national disaffection.

Separatist-terrorist mischief of a new order would seem to be afoot in Jammu and Kashmir. There have been several indications to this effect. The latest comes from no less a person than the Prime Minister.

His reported statement about the government having anticipated that the sealing of the Punjab and Rajasthan borders would prompt Pakistan to send armed infiltrators into Jammu and Kashmir may be seen as confirmation of a qualitative deterioration in the State's situation from the security and law-and-order viewpoints.

The claim, however, can also be interpreted as a sign of complacency. Especially if the gravity of the situation lies in its having been less than anticipated, as suggested by the earlier observations of Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah.

He had talked of a "serious" and "dangerous" spurt in the activities of Pakistan-trained fundamentalist terrorists. And he had specifically spoken of attempts to "create destabilisation in our State" and conditions here being similar to those of "trouble-torn Punjab".

The statements deserve note not merely for coming after avowals by the usurpers of Pak-occupied Kashmir of an escalation in their anti-India Jihad.

The sombreness of their significance is heightened for following the increasingly intensified violence by openly pro-Pakistan elements of all hues—represented in the Muslim United Front as well as outfits like the Kashmir Liberation Army—in the Valley for over three months now.

While the escalation has been studiously marked in the wake of Gen Ziaul Haq's death, as in the case of Punjab, even more remarkable has been the growing evidence of firearms in the terrorist strikes. The State authorities have made known the magnitude of sophisticated, foreign-made arms being wielded by the anti-national criminals.

This is an unprecedented development of alarming import, indeed. And, considering the information with official agencies about the ramifications of the cross-border terrorism, believed to include training for the separatists in guerilla warfare, the apprehensions of the Chief Minister and others would appear to be far from unfounded.

The new situation, obviously, calls for new measures to deal with it. No longer will it be anything but pitifully futile for the Union and State Governments, and forces swearing by secularism and national unity, to seek to counter the offensive with pious declarations and petty political ploys alone.

Uranium Reserves Discovered in Meghalaya

BK1410034488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Uranium reserves have been located in Meghalaya. The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Srinivasan, said in Hyderabad yesterday that there are indications that the new find might be a major and an important one.

He said reserves are also likely to be found in Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh. Dr Srinivasan said the uranium reserves so far identified in the country are adequate for achieving 10,000 mw of nuclear power capacity by 2000 AD and sustaining it for about 30 years.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1410162088 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Friday that it is not in the interest of the Islamic Republic to engage other countries during its post-war reconstruction period.

Because, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, the country's experience in the past ten years has proved that such engagements would only diminish the country's wealth. But he commented that no foreign government is likely to look forward to seeing Iran an independent and progressive country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a substitute leader of Friday mass prayers made the remarks in his sermons to a multitudinous group of worshippers at Tehran University campus and its adjacent streets.

He said "engaging the Persian Gulf littoral states will only lead to the stagnation of our oil exports which is considered a factor for our progress."

"If we make friends with the Persian Gulf states and adopt a joint oil policy we can all enjoy a booming economy," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

The Majlis speaker said the Islamic revolution has left behind "the time of resistance and direct clashes" because, he said, all plots and conspiracies against the Islamic revolution have proved unsuccessful.

He also cited the coming to power of liberals as well as aborted coups and the imposition of an all-out war on Iran by the superpowers as valuable experiences of the Islamic revolution.

It is natural, Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued, that revolutionary officials were not first fully aware of the country's general economic, social and political affairs, but later they became familiar with such affairs over the past few years so that they have now realized domestic and regional facts.

Recent developments have served to attract world-wide attention on Iran to such an extent that peoples around the globe are looking forward to the future developments in the country, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, adding "our success in this stage will make possible the export of the Islamic revolution."

The substitute Friday prayers leader said that world public opinion might be provoked by slogans but would never believe in them. What is of most importance is to set an example for the world including Muslim countries, he noted.

Elsewhere in his sermons, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani cautioned that Iraq's total submission to the big powers and the obstacles it is creating in the way of the U.N.-sponsored peace talks have caused Iran to consider the likelihood of resumption of the war by the Iraqi government.

"However," he said, "the Baghdad regime has suffered so much loss in the war that it is very unlikely to get involved in a conflict once again."

The first pre-sermon speaker at this week's Friday congregational prayers was Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri who delivered a speech on the foundations of the Islamic ideology.

Velayati Submits Report on UN Talks to Khomeyni

LD1310165688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] This morning, following the completion of the second round of peace talks within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received Velayati who submitted a report on the talks to the imam of the ummah.

Shamkhani Meets With UN Mission Commander

LD1310171788 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] General Slavko Jovic, the commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observation Group [UNIIMOG] and the UN secretary general's special representaive, Goulding, met this evening with 'Ali Shamkhani, the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and chief of the Military Organization for the Implementation of Resolution No 598.

At the meeting, discussions were held about the duties of the UNIIMOG forces, the methods of pursuing their activities and facilitating their duties, as well as problems and difficulties brought about so far by the Iraqi regime along the cease-fire line.

UN Commander, Official Visit Forces in Bakhtaran

LD1410094488 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct. 14, IRNA—Commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observor Groups (UNIIMOG) General Slavko Jovic and Deputy of the UN Secretary General Marack Goulding arrived here Friday morning and were greeted at Bakhtaran airport by local officials.

The idea behind the visit, the second since establishment of the cease-fire on Iraq-Iran War on August 20, is to meet the local UNIIMOG forces and officers in this western region and inspect situation of the forces in the area.

The two officials after holding talks with local UNIIMOG commanders in the their base in the city left for border regions.

Editorial Assesses Cease-Fire Talks in New York

PM1310162588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Oct 88 p 20

[Yunes Shokrkhah editorial: "Comments on Iran-Iraq Talks in New York"]

[Text] It seems that Iraq is not willing to halt its obstructionist moves in the negotiations on Resolution No 598. The Iraqi regime continued its aggression against Iran despite acceptance of Resolution No 598 in full view of the entire world, thereby showing that it only accepted the slogan of peace as a mere tactic.

When it finally saw that negotiations on Resolution No 598 were serious, it came up with another excuse which was the direct talks. Following this excuse, the negotiating team in Geneva continued its obstructionism by bringing up subjects such as the Arvand River and the 1975 accord. Now, in the second stage of the talks, the Iraqi foreign minister has left New York for Baghdad.

In accordance with diplomatic protocol regarding negotiations of this caliber, the person in charge of the negotiations, in this case the UN secretary general, formally announce the closure of the talks. This was done in Geneva by the secretary general's representative.

However, surprisingly, and before the secretary general could announce the closure of the second stage of the talks, we see that the Iraqi foreign minister has left New York. This is the latest in a series of obstructionist tactics used by Baghdad in the negotiations.

It was the general belief that the secretary general would be able to continue the second round of talks in a more strict fashion, keeping in mind the presence of the Security Council, which was not present in Geneva.

Unfortunately, the Council so far has not given enough weight to the secretary general's role in the peace talks and has not given him enough support in all but one case.

Naturally, every analyst and those who are familiar with diplomatic issues know that the role of the United Nations in its New York headquarters, keeping in mind the presence of the Security Council, is much more important that that of the organization's offices in Geneva.

In any case, the Iranian foreign minister is still in New York and, of course, his presence shows how serious Iran is about these talks. If the negotiations are to take place to implement Resolution No 598 and if the Iraqi regime does not force the world to watch its political circus, the Security Council must take serious steps and support the secretary general in the implementation of the resolution.

No doubt, the secretary general and the council have so far witnessed Iran's goodwill in the talks. The fact that the Iraqi foreign minister has left New York while his Iranian counterpart is still there proves this point.

In reality, the Iraqi regime is looking at another side of the issue. It wants to see the reaction of the Security Council. So, it is the duty of the Council through the secretary general, to make Iraq understand that this time it cannot turn its back on peace. The lack of a proper response will give Iraq an opportunity to take steps in its previous direction.

Kurdish Leader Qasemlu on Migration Problem

PM1210145388 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 5 Oct 88 p 18

[Interview with 'Abdul Rahman Qasemlu, Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran secretary general, by Lola Infante in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Infante] What is the reason for your visit to Spain?

[Qasemlu] I am going to Madrid at the invitation of the IEPALA [expansion unknown], and I hope to inform the Spanish Government officials of our position, that is, we have always favored peace between Iran and Iraq; it is an absurd war which has caused 2 million casualties.

[Infante] You talk of an "absurd war" and of your desire for peace, but in fact your people have the reputation of being warlike, of living by and for war...

[Qasemlu] We Kurds do indeed have the reputation of loving war, but it is not so. Khomeyni forced the war on us in 1979. Today we do not want a repetition of what happened in 1975, when an agreement between Iraq and the shah caused the collapse of the Kurdish movement. We will continue the struggle. We Kurds will not capitulate, as in 1975.

Internationalization

[Infante] You do not intend to capitulate, but how will you achieve this? Both Iran and Iraq seem determined to eliminate the Kurds. What resources do you have?

[Qasemlu] You will see. The Kurdish factor will emerge as an independent element in the Middle East and between Iran and Iraq. Our peshmerga control thousands of kilometers of the common borders.

The Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran wants to take advantage of the situation of international alarm caused by the use of chemical weapons against the Iraqi Kurds by the Baghdad government.

[Infante] And how are the Iraqi Kurds of the Patriotic Union faring?

[Qasemlu] Dr Talabani's Patriotic Union is the largest Iraqi Kurdish organization these days.

Peace Unlikely

Talabani and I agree on one point: We do not wish to interfere in each other's internal affairs. They may and do collaborate with Khomeyni's regime, which we detest. We collaborate with the Iraqi Government, but we will never do anything against the Kurds in the other country, and have made this quite clear to the Iraqi Government.

[Infante] I do not doubt it, but do you not believe that they could sacrifice the Kurds for the sake of a peace to end a war that neither side wishes to prolong?

[Qasemlu] I do not believe that the conditions exist today for the governments of Iran and Iraq to reach agreement at the Kurds' expense. If they do so, we will not sit back and do nothing, as in 1975.

"Our Plight Is Not an Inevitable Tragedy"

Despite being an Iranian Kurd, 'Abdol Rahman Qasemlu seems especially worried about the fate of the thousands of fellow-countrymen beset by Saddam Husayn's regime.

"Regarding the exodus of Iraqi Kurds to Turkey," he stated, "I must say that these events are nothing new in our people's history. Tens of thousands of Iranian Kurds have fled to Iraq over the past few years, and this tragedy has not been reported by any news media in the world."

"For many people, for those who do not know the real origin of the Kurdish problem," he added, "this exodus, this forced migration, is a traditional misfortune—something cyclical and inevitable, like the arrival of the monsoon."

[Infante] But over the past few days the press throughout the world has placed the Kurdish problem on the front pages. Reams have been written about the tragedy.

[Qasemlu] Indeed, but this is because of the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi Army. One must avoid reducing the Kurdish tragedy to the use of chemical weapons—something that appalls the Western world. If the Kurds are massacred in other ways than with gas, nobody seems interested. We have had nearly 50,000 civilian casualties in 9 years of war with Khomeyni.

The Kurdish issue must be tackled on its true scale, because it concerns 25 million people scattered over four countries—Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey.

Iraqi, Turkish Kurds Continue To Cross Border

LD1310092188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Kurds of northern Iraq are continuing to take refuge in Iran. This morning more than 3,000 Iraqi Kurds who had taken refuge in Turkey crossed the borders of Iran and Turkey and entered West Azarbayjan Province.

On arrival, the refugees were transferred to camps designed to provide temporary shelter. With the arrival of this number of refugees during the past 2 days, close to 8,000 destitute Iraqi Kurds who live in northern Iraq, comprising 1,379 households, entered our country via Turkish territory.

This report states that following the crimes of the regime ruling over Iraq in the Kurdish regions in the north, 32,226 oppressed Kurdish people have so far taken refuge in Iran and have been housed in the camps in Piranshahr, (?Silvana), (Zideh), and Oshnoviyeh.

Commentary on Plight of Kurdish Refugees
LD1310152088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Political commentary: "International Diplomacy and the Uncertain Fate of the Iraqi Kurdish Refugees"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Regarding the Turkish Government's call in the past few weeks for assistance in meeting the expenditures and basic needs of the Iraqi Kurdish brothers—or even European countries taking in some of these refugees—Turkey, nevertheless, is facing serious problems.

If no immediate assistance is forthcoming from international sources, the situation in Iraqi Kurdish refugee camps on Turkish territory will deteriorate. [passage omitted] Viewing the situation away from the cold mountains and the congested campsites of the Kurdish refugees, it appears that the terrifying fate of tens of thousands of Iraqi Kurds is gradually falling into oblivion on the international scene.

In spite of public condemnations by many countries in recent months, there does not appear to have been any positive inclination toward addressing the plight of the Kurds. Even if some countries have published statements, they have drawn attention to their propaganda aspects rather than [as a means of prompting] immediate and practical actions.

Furthermore, the country that has used greater political and propaganda deception than others is the U.S. Government. Following the deployment of chemical weapons by the ruling regime in Baghdad against the Iraqi Kurds, the U.S. Senate passed a harsh [as heard] draft bill for approval, after some investigation.

However, as expected this was rejected by the U.S. Government, after being twice altered and amended. A draft bill calling for milder and more lenient punitive actions was approved yesterday, which, considering the preliminary statements of the U.S. Government on condemning Iraq for using chemical weapons and meting out severe and unprecedented punishments, is a blatant contradiction.

Considering the regional polices of the U.S. Government, we can learn that it has never attempted to weaken the Iraqi position. On the other hand, the punitive measures envisioned in the draft bill approved by the Senate will in practice have no effect on the trend to suppress the Iraqi Kurds.

Ultimately, the question some experts have posed is whether the boycott on the export of advance techonology and refusal to grant loans by the multinational banks to the Iraqi regime, which has been put forward in the draft bill, will be carried out in practice.

Considering the Iraqi regime's blatant and continuous violations of the regulations of the international conventions, political observers are skeptical as to whether or not such a weak and ineffectual draft bill, which is useless in practice, will bring about considerable change in Iraq's conduct or bring it to its senses.

Finally, it is clear that the only way to improve the plight of tens of thousands of Iraqi Kurds is a comphrehensive international initiative. One should not be content with mere propoganda and goodwill measures by some countries.

Without doubt, the investigation of the atrocities of the ruling regime in Baghdad and efforts toward the realization of the rights of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees and the improvement of the facilities in the refugee camps is the duty of all the countries as members of international bodies.

U.S. Congress Seeks Sanctions Against Iraq
LD1410131788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpt] U.S. efforts to impose punitive measures against the Iraqi regime for using chemical weapons, and the siding of the U.S. media with that regime on the threshold of the U.S. presidential elections, is the title of the next news report.

With the approach of the U.S. presidential elections, the issue of Iraq's use of chemical weapons has incited much international anger and hostility and assumed a more prominent role in the U.S. political conventions.

Extensive activities for the purpose of attracting the public's attention to this issue have begun in the Congress. The senators and congressmen who are trying to reach a compromise on the tax bill before the closing of Congress have agreed to impose punitive measures against Iraq for its use of chemical weapons, and are trying to add such a measure in the final taxation bill.

Amid all this, and despite the U.S. State Department's annoyance with the Senate's decision to decrease trade with Iraq, U.S. Senator [name indistinct] appealed in a letter to Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, for an international initiative against the use of chemical weapons, and proposed the implementation of tighter controls on exporting products and technologies which could be used in the manufacture of such weapons. He also urged that the United Nations should take a strong position against a country which has embarked on the use of these chemical weapons.

The U.S. press and mass media have not ignored these efforts either. After siding with the political conventions, they remained silent at the time of the Halabjah tragedy during which thousands of women, children, old and young people lost their lives as a result of the Iraqi

regime's chemical bombings. They have now begun to talk about and have called for punitive measures against Iraq for using chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

IRNA Cites UK's Howe on Relations, Talks

LD1310193388 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] London, Oct. 13, IRNA—British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has denied that talks on a full restoration of diplomatic ties with Iran had broken down.

"They have been discontinued for the moment until other matters can be investigated," he said adding "one does not want to do it on the basis of any misunderstanding."

Speaking on BBC domestic radio Thursday, [13 October], Howe did not specify what issues need to be resolved but said that the agreement reached in principle with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in New York to restore ties "has to be worked out very carefully."

His comments are seen much more calculated than the optimism he projected two weeks ago in New York and is thought to be on account of British officials' halting of bilateral talks in Geneva for further consultations.

"The very fact that they (relations) were broken means that one does not want to put them back together again in the fashion that might be misunderstood, so we are moving very cautiously," Howe said.

Britain is the only European country without representation in Iran and the foreign secretary insisted it was still "important" to get back onto normal terms with Iran and to be able to give consulate advice to Britons trying to do business and trade there.

Currently no British businessmen are recorded residing in Iran. Of the 45 British residents living there all are thought to be wives of Iranians.

The Foreign Office is yet to formally speak about the apparent deadlock in talks and is remaining coy about the reasons behind the suspension in Geneva last week to allow British officials to seek consultations.

A ministry spokesman told IRNA Thursday that he still had no date for any resumption of the discussions and that no details were being released about the matters Howe said had to be considered.

At issue is thought to be a joint statement that would be issued when new representation levels are announced and essentially is believed to be connected with Britain being more forthright about its diplomatic behaviour towards Islamic Iran in the past.

Musavi Speaks at Officers College Ceremony

LD1310115488 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Thursday [13 October] described the ties between the nation and the Armed Forces as strong.

Speaking in a flag hoisting ceremony at the officers college here he stressed advanced military techniques must be taught at the military colleges and that quality of the education in these centers must be of high standard.

In Islamic Iran unlike many other countries, he added, the Army is the defender of the independence of the country and protects it against imperialist powers.

Japanese Group To Assess Oil Complex Damage

OW0810044688 Tokyo KYODO in English 0338 GMT 8 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 8 KYODO—A fact-finding mission dispatched by Japan's Mitsui Business Group arrived in Tehran Friday to assess damage inflicted by the Iran-Iraq war on a petrochemical complex the group is building in a joint venture with Iran. The mission comprises 18 officials from six Japanese companies, including Mitsui and Co.

The Japanese group will visit the project site of Bandar-e Khomeyni Tuesday with a few Iranian officials as part of a joint five-day investigation, Mitsui officials said.

Iran and Japan had already poured some 700 billion yen into the giant petrochemical complex until the project ground to a halt amid rocket attacks with 40 percent of construction works still unfinished.

The complex was severely damaged by a total of 19 Iraqi air raids conducted during the eight-year war until the ceasefire was declared in August.

Iran made clear its interest in continuing the project immediately after the ceasefire, while Mitsui has suggested it wants to withdraw from the near-completed project.

The issue has become a major source of friction between Japan and Iran, which are holding talks on Tokyo's cooperation with Tehran to reconstruct its war-torn economy.

The mission's findings will play a vital role in deciding whether the Japanese side should continue to project, the Mitsui officials said.

Japanese Agriculture Project Inaugurated

OW1410081188 Tokyo KYODO in English 0535 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14 KYODO—A ground-breaking ceremony was conducted on Thursday for a model agricultural area in Iran in Japan's first technical cooperative national project with Iran after it agreed to a ceasefire in its war with Iraq, Japanese officials said.

The project is expected to be a symbolic bilateral move amid the suspended Iran-Iraq [as received] Petrochemical Co. (IJPC) project halted for several years due to damage inflicted by Iraqi air raids during the eight-year war, the officials said.

Japan plans to construct from early next year experimental farms covering some 140 hectares and will set up three model agricultural areas over the next five years near Mahmudabad, about 120 kilometers northeast of Tehran, fronting the Caspian Sea.

The officials said the project is aimed at doubling harvests and reducing man-hours by 30-40 percent from present levels while producing rice, Iran's staple food.

Iran also wants to lower its dependence on rice imports, currently totaling about 20 percent of its annual requirement of 1.5-1.6 million tons, they said.

Japan will send five to six agricultural experts to Iran and provide it with farm equipment, while inviting a few Iranian officials yearly to study and train in Japan, they said.

Majlis Speaker on Visit by Sierra Leone's Conteh

LD1210091188 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—William Conteh, speaker of Sierra Leone's parliament, and his entourage left here today. They were seen off at the airport by Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In an interview with IRNA before departure, Conteh described his visit as "positive" and said Iran could help his country in various fields.

Tehran-Freetown parliamentary cooperation is to be strengthened within the framework of a parliamentary friendship society, he said, adding that political, economic, social and cultural ties would also be enhanced in future.

He added that he will urge his government to promote diplomatic ties with Iran and open an embassy in Tehran.

The two countries share identical views regarding many issues, he said. Like Iran, Sierra Leone too is opposed to suppression of non-whites in Africa, he said.

He also condemned deployment of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurdish people by the Baghdad regime.

Commenting on Conteh's visit, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said from the very beginning the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy has been to expand relations with neglected countries and the visit served the same purpose.

"By expanding relations with third world countries, we can foil plots of arrogance," he said.

The presence of the Islamic revolution in Africa is of particular importance, politically and culturally, said the speaker, adding that this would help acquaint the African people with true ideals of Islam and correct the erronous concepts created by the oppressive mass media in the mind of the people in the third world.

He added that campaign against racial discrimination in Africa requires an all-out presence there. Therefore, he said, with regards to the goals of the Islamic revolution, visits of this kind will be important.

The Majlis speaker also said he has accepted his counterpart's invitation to visit Sierra Leone but gave no precise date.

Conteh arrived here on October 7 at the invitation of Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

SWAPO 'Ambassador' Confers With Besharati

LD1210203488 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—Ambassador of the Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO) to the Islamic Republic Mwalilepeni Shitilifa [name as received] conferred with Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Wednesday.

The SWAPO envoy adverting to quadrilateral talks concerning independence for Namibia and peace in Angola, said South African forces are expected to start withdrawing from Namibia as of November 1st.

Free elections for Namibia's independence will be held in June 1989 under the supervision of the United Nations, Shitilifa added.

In response, Besharati voicing Iran's support for SWAPO and Namibia's independence said the Islamic Republic is closely following up the quadrilateral talks.

"We hope to attend Namibia's independence ceremony together with Sam Nujoma (SWAPO president) in the near future," he added.

Namibia's independence if realised would be the most important development of the 1980s, he said adding, the South African racist regime cannot continue its oppression of the regional people.

Mo'ayeri Departs for Talks in Turkey

LD1410083188 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs Alireza Mo'ayeri left Tehran for Ankara Friday morning at the head of a delegation for talks with Turkish officials on bilateral cooperation and status of Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

Mo'ayeri is also carrying a message from Premier Hoseyn Musavi to Premier Turgut Ozal of Turkey.

Interviewed before departure Mo'ayeri said that he will inform the Turkish authorities that the Islamic Republic of Iran is unable to accept more Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

He stressed that Iran has already accepted a large number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees who have fled their hometowns in northern Iraq due to Iraqi chemical bombardments.

Incalculated [as received] dispatch of these refugees from Turkey to Iran could result in human tragedies, he told IRNA. Mo'ayeri pointed out that Iran lacks additional facilities needed for settlement of more number of the refugees.

Lauding the Turkish Government's measure in accepting the Kurdish refugees he added that the refugee problems could be solved through cooperation of the Turkish and Iranian Governments.

In addition to refugees from the northeastern Iraqi city of Halabjah Iran has recently accepted more than 30,000 refugees.

Montazeri Message to Islamic Students

LD1210150888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Message from Grand Ayatollah Montazeri to annual meeting of Union of Islamic Societies of Iranian Students held in Mashhad]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Esteemed members of the Union of Islamic Societies of universities, may God grant you success.

I received your letter. I express my appreciation and thanks to you, dear students, for your sense of responsibility toward the revolution. You are well informed on current problems and difficulties and on your heavy responsibilities toward the revolution and the safeguarding of its basic aspirations, values, and principles.

I feel exactly as you do. I am not involved in the policies, decisions, and executive affairs of the country, and I stay aloof from them. However, whenever I have had feelings of religious responsibility, I have reminded the officials and the dear nation of certain issues, or in some cases I have brought them to the notice of the esteemed leader.

There is no doubt about the importance of the role of the students and the clergy, or religious seminaries and universities, in enhancing the political awareness of the nation and advancing the Islamic movement up to the victory of the revolution, and in subsequent stages at different junctures. During the former regime great efforts were made to isolate the religious seminaries and universities from the country's politics and current affairs.

After the victory of the revolution and as the result of the urgings of the esteemed leader, this situation changed, thanks to God. However, we should not believe that all our responsibilities are over. The duty of safeguarding the revolution and its divine values, goals, and aspirations rests upon every one of us.

Just as all factions, individuals, and classes took part in the revolution and in its victory, so should all of them also be involved in safeguarding it, be sensitive to its aspirations and goals, and express their views on these issues. They should be able to express their opinions. The officials in charge of the country and the revolution should not regard themselves as above constructive remarks and criticism.

Freedom of speech and of expressing views within the framework of Islam and the revolution and the interests of the country is the natural and legal right of every individual and faction.

Newspapers and the mass media should be the means of airing various views and opinions, so that the development of the revolution and the country continues and that the people may be informed of all views and thoughts. The mass media, universities, and religious seminaries should not follow a particular group or faction, while others are denied all privileges. If we do not tolerate views opposed to our own, those opposition remarks will soon turn to bullets; and in the words of his holiness the lord of the faithful [Imam 'Ali], they will resort to the sword.

Today we need the enhancement and growth of Islamic and revolutionary culture. This process will not be achieved without the assuring freedom of expression. The esteemed officials of the country and the revolution, who have themselves tasted the bitter taste of suppression during the regime of monarchical tyranny, should be mindful of this fact.

They should not imagine that now that the satanical regime has been removed, we no longer need freedom of expression. That is a false assumption. None of us is so

innocent that he does not need to be reminded. In any government and system, the growth and development of science, knowledge, talent, noble character, and human values can only be achieved as the result of the propagation of views and ideas both for and against.

If we wish to achieve the pure truth of Islam and the sublime ideals of the revolution, and to eliminate superstition, ignorance, and heresies against the pristine divine teachings, we have no option but to create a healthy climate, an open and free environment for scientific discussions, to organize political and social roundtable discussions, and to provide an opportunity for the maturity and advancement of the capabilities of various individuals.

The time is past when we could declare people infidels, excommunicate them, or level various accusations at them because they declare some truths. The wheel of time cannot be turned back. The revolution released certain forces from bondage.

We are still half-way along the road. All of us should strive to fulfill the original goals of the revolution through unity of expression, honesty, and faithfulness by shunning deceit and politicking. We should not be intimidated by a climate of accusations and we should maintain our intellectual independence.

The main principle for us should be Islam and the divine goals of the revolution. We should seek everything to achieve this goal. All positions, powers, and responsibilities should be for the sake of Islamic aspirations. We should want them for the sake of those aspirations, not just to safeguard our short-lived status and power.

His holiness the lord of the faithful and His Holiness Abi 'Abdallah [Imam Husayn], peace be upon them, sacrificed themselves for Islamic ideals. One cannot expect anything from us except to be their faithful followers.

We should put an end to the period of slogans without action. We should make arrangements to implement the slogans of the past 10 years. If there is an excess of slogans, or if our domestic and foreign policies do not correspond to our slogans, they will have little effect on us.

You students, wherever you are, your actions should be sincere and for the sake of God. Shun pretence, deception, factionalism, childish team-making, casting aspersions at others, and causing differences. Convey your logical remarks in a rational manner to the officials. They should also tolerate you and should value you.

You students are the children of the revolution and the country. Try to prepare yourselves for the future of the country and the revolution. Maintain your unity and solidarity with the committed and sincere clergy, and devote yourselves to study and to the enhancement of the level of your knowledge so that you can serve the country and the revolution; otherwise, positions and capabilities will be placed in the hands of counterrevolutionary individuals.

Respect your professors and scholarly individuals and students and men of learning. Value them and make use of their learning in the best possible way, for the goals of the revolution. I will pray for you and I pray to Almighty God for your greater success and the success of other servants of Islam, the revolution and the country. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Officials Discuss Postwar Reconstruction

NC1310212188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Political roundtable discussion with Hamid Mirzadeh, deputy prime minister and head of the Central Reconstruction and Construction Headquarters, and Reza Ardakanian, member of the Central Reconstruction and Construction Headquarters, deputy for urban development in the Ministry of Interior, and "official in charge of shelters," moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Afshar] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Salutations to you dear viewers and compatriots. Once again we bring to you another program in the weekly political roundtable. Our discussion today is on reconstruction, in view of the recent message by the Imam of the nation on the subject.

We hope that you will benefit from the knowledge and expertise that our participating guests have in this field and that we will be able to take some steps with regard to the participation of the dear, resistant, and self-sacrificing people of our nation. [passage omitted]

Mr Mirzadeh, in the past month, there has been much talk on the topic of reconstruction, and various views have been expressed. However, it has not yet become clear exactly what it is; that is, we do not have a comprehensive definition in hand. Does it mean that the areas and centers which have sustained damage in the war will be repaired? Or will the entire economy be reconstructed?

We were unable to do this due the problems we had after the revolution, the foremost of which was the war. Could you please give us a detailed definition for our people, as it would really benefit them.

[Mirzadeh] I thank the dear brothers in Voice and Vision, who have provided us with this opportunity to discuss reconstruction. As His Eminence the Imam said in his recent message, reconstruction is an issue which requires the cooperation and consensus of all types of people.

Therefore, as this topic is discussed on Voice and Vision, it will become of immense benefit for the correct implementation of the reconstruction program, which is one of the most sensitive issues after the war. [passage omitted]

When we study the message by His Eminence the Imam, we see in the message the wider dimensions of the discussion on the subject of reconstruction of warstricken areas. The Central Headquarters for Reconstruction and Construction is carrying out current programs and has some future programs as well, according to what the esteemed authorities consider the Central Headquarters' obligations.

We have drawn up plans for the next 1 and ½ years in the warstricken areas in particular and in the areas bombed by the enemy's aerial attacks in general. We have also planned a general reconstruction program in various fields such as housing, industry, and agriculture, as well for the general economy.

[Afshar] Mr Mirzadeh, If I am not mistaken, I have concluded from your remarks is that even though reconstruction encompasses the country's entire economy, priority will be given to the warstricken areas.

[Mirzadeh] Yes, this is so. However, this priority should be specified by the esteemed authorities. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Will the reconstruction of bombed areas have the same priority?

[Mirzadeh] Yes, of course. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Ardakanian, in his recent message the Imam of the nation stressed the people's participation in reconstruction. Has there been any planning of the people's involvement? If so, what will their participation in reconstruction be like?

For example, if some people wish to return to their districts and neighborhoods and if their houses have been destroyed, will the government assist them in reconstructing their houses? Will it give them loans to construct them, or will the government undertake the construction and then hand them over?

If so, will the government ask the people's opinion on what kind of a house it should be? Also, will the government enlist the private sector's participation in reconstruction?

[Ardakanian] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] The people's participation can take two forms in reconstruction: One is the participation of the people themselves who wish to take up residence in that particular area, and the other is the utilization of manpower, capital, and facilities of all our compatriots in various areas for reconstruction of damaged areas.

The latter form will of course depend and concentrate upon the availability of facilities, possibilities, and capital in various fields such as the establishment of necessary production units, including those for production of construction materials or in the field of agriculture. [passage omitted]

If we want to analyze the obligations of the government in general, and the people in this field, it will be more appropriate if we talk of the government's participation in reconstruction instead of terming it the people's participation. This is because although the bulk of the work will be carried out by the people; the government will act as policymaker and supervisor.

I want to inform our dear compatriots that we are presently capable of repairing approximately 77,500 units—whether residential, commercial, or governmental—which had sustained 30-100 percent damage in the war.

Fortunately, due to the efforts of the people and the officials in governmental departments who have been actively involved in reconstruction, we are glad to announce that by the end of the current year we will have completed the reconstruction of 46,000 units. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Mirzadeh, in the course of his remarks, Mr Ardakanian mentioned the figure of 77,500 units which had sustained damage to the extent of 30 to 100 percent, if I am not mistaken.

[Mirzadeh] Yes, these are residential, commercial, and official buildings.

[Afshar] My question to you in your capacity as the person in charge of the Central Headquarters for Reconstruction and Construction of the country is: Does that figure represent all the housing units damaged in the course of the 8 war years, or are they more than that? If they are more, could you give any statistics?

How many more houses do we need to reconstruct? How much manpower, construction materials, cement, girders, and other such things do we require?

[Mirzadeh] As regards the figure 77,500, I wish to state that this is only the central headquarters' target for the current year 1367 [year ending March 1989]. [passage omitted]

Of course, we have our priorities. For example, the rural areas will be given priority, and a program for 1 and ½ years has been formulated. According to the plan we have submitted to the esteemed heads of the three branches of the government and the respected prime minister, we think we will be able to complete the reconstruction of all our villages in the next year and a half, the total number of which is more than 760.

We have the same program for the cities. Of course, in accordance with the Imam's recent decree on retaining the effects of the imposed war, the strength of resistance, and the people's holy defense, we may keep one or two cities just as they are, badly damaged and unpopulated, and we may construct those cities elsewhere.

However, in those cities where people are living as in Ilam, a heroic city, or Dezdful, another heroic city, reconstruction will continue. People have already begun reconstruction there. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] The industries minister said in an interview this week that foreign exchange will be required so that production units for construction materials will be able to meet the needs of the country's reconstruction program. The raw materials should be procured from inside the country so that we do not need to use foreign exchange.

However, as you said, some construction material is required over and above that which is available locally and already here. Can you tell us how much foreign exchange is required, and in what way?

[Mirzadeh] It is needed for the industrial sector, which itself sustained much damage in the bombing. Some cement factories, steel production units, and other industrial units, such as paper and sugar mills, were damaged.

To these we have allocated foreign exchange so that they can reach their optimum level of production. As our respected industries minister has said, if these units are made operational they will assist both the national economy and the reconstruction program. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] [Passage omitted] On reconstructing industries in war zones, there are two points of view. One is that we should move factories from near the border, where they are vulnerable. Some feel these industries should be relocated away from the borders and situated in the center of the country so that they would be safe if there were a war.

The other opinion is that our real enemies are the superpowers, and our real war is with them. As they have sophisticated weapons such as intercontinental missiles, it makes no difference if our factories and industries are located near the border or inland.

What is the opinion on reconstructing industries like the Abadan refinery, the (?rolling mills) in Ahvaz, or the Pars papermaking factory?

[Ardakanian] I think you mean the industries located in war zones. This topic was discussed in detail at the sessions of the Construction Headquarters by the various organizations. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Is there any concerted and specific program regarding agriculture? If so, what are the salient features of this program?

[Mirzadeh] My answer is in the affirmative and fortunately, we have incorporated agriculture into the program that we have envisioned. One of the highlights of this program is that one of our most fertile provinces is Khuzestan which has abundant land and sea resources. It has been allocated a major share of the reconstruction program for agriculture as well. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Ardakanian, has a comprehensive program been formulated for the cities damaged in the war? Were any previous difficulties taken into consideration in such plans?

[Ardakanian] On the possibilities of reconstructing cities, there are two considerations: One is the procurement of materials. I wish to state that under the program proposed for 6 months, $100 million has been allocated for construction materials on the premise that we renovate all the populous areas and provide all services to both urban or rural districts.

On a comprehensive plan, it is worth noting that we have realized that in the aftermath of the revolution the country's construction work was not in conformity with the standards of the revolution and especially due to the war, we experienced a vulnerability in our urban architecture. This issue has been actively debated in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Mirzadeh, there is one view that since in the 8 years of war there were difficulties, the rate of inflation was high, and there was immense economic pressure on our resistant people, now in peace, the country's resources should be mobilized for the people's welfare so that they can breathe more freely.

Another view is that if we devote our resources to the people's welfare, we will not be able to carry out reconstruction. This is a sensitive issue. It appears both views have strong logical foundations. The people are bearing the pressure of the high rate of inflation, and reconstruction is also a priority which should be carried out. What should be done?

[Mirzadeh] This is a very important and tough question. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly the people's welfare is one of the objectives of the reconstruction program, and we must also safeguard our principles for preserving the revolution's ideals and its gains in the reconstruction process.

For example, if we decide to repair our power stations—in this 1 and 1/2-year plan we have anticipated 2000 megawatts of electricity will be obtained from the repaired power stations. The technology and the spare parts for these will definitely have to be imported from abroad to a certain extent.

The purchase of these spare parts for the technology of producting 2000 megawatts of electricity will result in increases in the national grid. This will be for the welfare of the people as there will be fewer outages.

Therefore, we should carry out our economic dealings with countries which do not seek to dominate us or do not impose political conditions on us. The policy that we adopted in the wartime and the epoch-making moves of our revolution should be preserved as it enabled us to stand on our own feet. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] I thank you Mr Mirzadeh and you Mr Ardakanian for your participation and for accepting the invitation to this program.

Iravani Says 1979 Foreign Debts 'Repaid' in Full

LD1310193888 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Semnan, Oct.13, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has no arrears whatsoever, announced Minister of Economy and Finance of Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani today.

Speaking to reporters here Iravani said Iran had a 4.6 billion dollars debt at the time of the Islamic revolution (1979), which has totally been repaid. "Presently we owe only 395 million dollars now which are due for repayment in the next five years," he added.

Elsewhere, Iravani said the income from sales tax last year has enabled the government to implement some 5,000 small development projects, which he termed as "a great success".

Commentary on Overproduction by OPEC Members

LD1210195688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1109 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Political commentary: "A Glance at Oil Market Developments"]

[Excerpts] During the past 2 days, the falling trend in oil prices came to a halt and the price of crude oil increased by almost $1 on most oil markets.

The reason for this rise was the optimism among the dealers concerning the possibility of production controls by OPEC in wake of remarks made by some members of this organization.

However, in view of the low oil prices and no practical change in the gasoline policies of various OPEC members, one cannot interpret the price increase of the past 2 days as the end of the latest round of the falling price trend.

The new round of falling prices began several months ago due to OPEC's overproduction, and the fall has accelerated in the past month. Nigeria's Oil Minister, Lukman, chairman of the OPEC session, in a speech on Monday blamed Iraq, the UAE, and Kuwait for the fall in oil prices because of their overproduction.

The fact that the OPEC chairman has mentioned these countries' names proves their very destructive role in oil market developments of the past few weeks.

The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] members and Iraq began their race for overproduction several months ago with certain political objectives. The Hijaz regime adopted a more active role in this futile race during the past month.

Some time ago the Hijaz regime announced that it is not prepared to let other countries reduce its quota through their own overproduction. In reality, the Hijaz regime was indirectly publicizing its intention to increase production in order to reduce prices and control the production of other members.

The intensifying production race among the GCC members, which has drastically reduced oil prices, is inflicting heavy losses on the common interests of OPEC.

If the Hijaz regime really intended to persuade the rebels among the OPEC members to observe their quotas, it could curtail the oil export of Iraq, the main violator of OPEC's regulations, without inflicting losses on all OPEC members.

It does not appear that the production race among the GCC members and the creation of another crisis as the result of falling oil prices are undertaken in order to make the rebels observe their quotas. No doubt, the most important objective of those responsible for the current oil market situation is to serve the interests of the industrial states.

The OPEC culprits, in order to justify their irresponsible actions, are resorting to the excuse that they are supporting the nasty policy of winning a fair share in the oil market.

These countries believe that the two shocks created by the price increases of the last 10 years forced the industrial states to reduce their dependence on imported oil; and by economizing, discovering new oilfields, finding other energy sources, and implementing other policies, their demand for crude oil fell remarkably. This resulted in a reduction in OPEC's share of the oil market by 50 percent in a period of less than 10 years.

The countries which believe in a policy of acquiring a fair share in the market therefore argue that since rising oil prices resulted in a smaller production share for OPEC, the current fall in oil prices can increase the OPEC share once again to revive this organization's golden past. Although on the surface this argument appears justified in theory, existing realities show that this argument is incorrect.

During the mid-seventies, the West, by establishing the international energy agency, chose the policy of reducing its dependence on imported oil as a long-term strategy. [passage omitted]

The experience since the drastic fall of oil prices in 1986, that is, 2 years ago, demonstrated that falling prices do not increase the demand for OPEC oil. During the past 2 years, OPEC's difficulty in allocating quotas has doubled, thanks to a lower world demand.

The important point is the political dependence of all countries, which believe on winning a fair share in the market, on the West, particularly on the United States.

Not only will such dependence prevent them from taking any action against Western interests, it also makes these countries serve the interests of colonialism with their actions and current policies. At a time when falling oil prices have no effect on the West's oil policy and oil industry, any effort to reduce oil prices is precisely a move toward serving the economic interests of the industrial countries.

The continuous support of the reactionary OPEC member to overproduce has led to a situation in which the West feels that it is forever immune from any crisis resulting from OPEC's oil supply.

The U.S. energy secretary said recently that there will never be another oil supply crisis during the 1990s.

Editorial Analyzes Current Drop in Oil Prices
PM1410162388 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
6 Oct 88 p 20

[Heshmatollah Razavi editorial: "Fluctuations in Price of Oil and Reconstruction"]

[Text] The price of oil dropped this week to its lowest level since the oil crisis in 1986. Dubai crude sold for $9.65 per barrel in European markets, a little more than half its official OPEC price of $18. This editorial examines the reasons behind the change.

This sudden drop in prices can been seen in two ways, from the political angle or in market mechanisms.

It would be naive to view the change in the oil market in terms of market mechanisms. True, present OPEC production is some 20 million barrels a day, which is about 2.5 million barrels over the quotas for all member countries plus Iraq.

However, this increase in production is done purposely; the Arab oil producers of the Persian Gulf have undertaken this action with specific goals in mind.

The drop in oil prices is an old weapon used by Arab producers in the region to put Iran under currency and financial pressures.

It is obvious that the acceptance of Resolution No 598, to bring an end to the 8-year-old war, apart from the obvious political implications, also had positive economic results for Iran.

Acceptance of this resolution means that those countries not buying oil from Iran for political reasons will reestablish economic ties and start buying oil from Iran. This in itself means that Iran will regain some of its lost oil market, which also means that others who had been taking advantage of those markets will no longer have them.

It is now possible to understand the reasons for the Iraqi oil minister's visit this week to Saudi Arabia and other Arab oil-producing nations, as well as the recent activity by Saudi Arabia to sell customers oil at discount prices and increase the production level, which caused the drop in prices.

The recent changes in the oil market provide a lesson and warning to us as we begin the period of reconstruction. Economists have said many times that surveys show the country's oil will run out in another 20 to 30 years; they have warned of the dangers this could hold for the country's future.

Therefore, at this time, some serious thought must be given to the future of our economy, to freeing it from dependence on oil.

Creating an independent economy, away from foreign influence, has been one of the Islamic revolution's basic policies. Now for several reasons, including the imposed war, the world hegemonists have created obstacles for us. They have forced us into a one-product economy.

They want to control our economic and social life with fluctuations in the price of oil. Therefore, the time has come for us to make some basic plans for our economy, to free ourselves from this one-product financial resource so that we may become immune to fluctuations in the price of oil.

Former Saudi Oil Minister Zaki Yamani said in a 1974 interview: It is enough for Saudi Arabia to open its oil valves to destroy other OPEC countries and it is enough for Saudi Arabia to close its valves to destroy the purchasing countries.

Even though this is exaggerated, it deserves some thought. Only a few days ago, the OPEC chairman warned that if Saudi Arabia produced any more oil the price would drop to below $5 per barrel.

The question is: During this time of reconstruction, are we able to depend on and make plans dependent on fluctuating oil prices?

The negative role played by Saudi Arabia in OPEC is so obvious that it does not need explaining. We remember how in the past few years Saudi Arabia and its allies lowered the prices from $36 to less than $10 "in order to defend the fair quota in the market." In this way, they prevented oil-producing nations, most of them in the Third World, from gaining hard currency from the oil market.

Now that a new era has started in the life of the Islamic revolution, it is expected that basic programs will be laid down for an independent economy, free from oil. The logic and real reasons behind this are that oil belongs to all generations and that OPEC is not a sound framework for a guaranteed income.

Commentary on Recent Developments in Algeria
NC1310142088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Political and news circles list various reasons, according to their own points of view, as the effective elements responsible for the recent developments in Algeria.

These reasons can be divided into three groups. The first attaches importance to economic problems. The second points to political difficulties. The third is that of those who believe that Algeria's developments stem from that country's social problems. [passage omitted]

Some news circles believe that economic problems resulting from the drop in oil prices are the main element that led to the current developments in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Other news circles consider the political problems faced by the Algerian Government to be important elements leading to the current unrest in the country and believe that the special characteristics of Algeria's political system and its activities both at home and abroad have created an atmosphere that has reduced the people's decisionmaking and policymaking role. [passage omitted]

Finally, another group of political and news circles that follow Algerian developments speak of the country's cultural problems. Because Algeria was under the influence of French colonialism for many years before gaining its independence, its society has not yet been able to shake off the cultural impact of this factor.

Algeria is now facing an identity crisis because of the lack of decisive struggle against these manifestations of Western culture and the government's propagandizing of these manifestations. Under such conditions, Islamic culture and thought—which has been the backbone of the Muslim Algerian people against French colonialism and for Algerian independence for many years—is once again flagrantly showing up in the life of the people.

The growth of Islamic tendencies that can, in the opinion of the Algerian people, solve the current problems has led to a cultural struggle between Islamic thought and Western phenomena in Algeria. The outcome of this struggle can end the existing crisis only if Algeria's cultural and educational policies are based on the return to the historic identity of its people.

Even though one specific element cannot be declared the source of the recent unrest in Algeria, the cultural problems and their influence can definitely be considered one of the effective reasons for it.

At any rate, all the elements listed can be considered reasons leading to the recent clashes in Algeria if studied in relation with each other. A look at these elements shows that recent incidents have deep roots and stem from Algeria's problems in the economic, political, and cultural fields and.... [commentary interrupted to carry Tehran International Service in Turkish program]

Commentary Assails Propaganda Ministers' Meeting
LD1310132088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Station commentary: "The Conclusion of the Jeddah Conference of Islamic Countries' Propaganda Ministers"]

[Text] The conference of propaganda ministers ended in Jeddah yesterday. Unfortunately, contrary to the spirit of Islam, they again passed an incredible resolution and condemned the Muslim nation of Iran.

The final resolution of the conference of the Islamic countries' propaganda ministers condemns what they call the bloody and blatant intrusion into the holy shrine of God in Mecca by publicity-seeking groups.

Now, after more than a year has passed since the Mecca tragedy in which the blood of many pilgrims was shed, will the Islamic spirit allow the truth to be ignored and remarks to be made which are contrary to what actually happened? Of course, one cannot expect anything from a conference which is backed by the Wahhabi regime of the Hijaz—a regime which is outside the bounds of Islam—except the interpretation of anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist slogans as mere hue and cry, and their subsequent condemnation.

Today the Islamic world from east to west is witnessing significant transformations. Those regimes who thought whatever they imposed on their people would be passively accepted are gradually learning that people demand the truth from them. When these regimes are unable to answer the people, the people will use any means to express their opposition.

At a time when an Islamic awakening has spread to all Islamic countries and assemblies, can the Islamic countries' propaganda ministers on one hand condemn the pilgrims for their anti-imperialist slogans and on the other hand indulge in sloganeering that the world's propaganda in under the West's control?

If they believe that an Islamic news agency should be established parallel with the propaganda monopolies of the West, is it not proper that they should try to separate their other cultural and propaganda affairs from the West? Did not last year's hajj pilgrims seek just this?

Sadly, the final resolution of the Islamic countries' propaganda ministers contains another violation of the truth. In this resolution, issued while a cease-fire in the imposed war is in effect and when peace negotiations have been carried out in Geneva and New York with the third round beginning soon in Geneva, the Islamic ministers have declared their full support for Iraq and its plan to regain its water and land territories.

Is this group of ministers still not aware that Iraq still holds some parts of the Islamic Republic's territory? What does Iraq's plan to regain its territories mean? If this means the Arvand River, also known as the Shatt al-'Arab, then first, the position of this waterway was clarified by the 1975 treaty and is not an issue for doubt and uncertainty. Moreover, a conference at the level of propaganda ministers of the Islamic countries should not support one side of an arguement which is going on between two member countries.

In light of these facts the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot attend conferences in which attempts are made to propagate an illusion; namely, Iran's cooperation with Israel. This is a mere fabrication disseminated by the Western propaganda monopolies.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the heir to the Islamic revolution, and therefore it cannot stand alongside those regimes which serve the imperialists by killing people.

It will not be long before those regimes will inevitably encounter more and more protests by their people. Then it will be too late to change what they have said in these resolutions, declarations, and statements.

Nepal

55 'Bandits' Lay Down Arms, 'Give Up Crime'

BK1410051688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0455 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 14 (AFP)—A group of 55 Nepalese bandits have laid down their weapons and agreed to give up crime in order to return to society, a Nepalese Home Ministry source said.

The bandits, believed to have been terrorizing southeastern Nepal for several years, gave up their arms before a local official at a special ceremony at Dhanusa, 190 kilometers (119 miles) southeast of here, the source said.

"Fifty-five criminals motivated by a desire to give up criminal life and contribute to national development surrendered Thursday [13 October] together with their four leaders and their contraband arms and ammunitions," the source said.

Hundreds of villagers, police officials, and federal and local government figures attended the ceremony, the source said.

"These dacoits [robbers] and criminals will be rehabilitated peacefully and provided with jobs so they can live comfortably and peacefully," the source said.

The surrendered arms included 25 rifles, 16 hand grenades, several locally made pistols, spears, knives and daggers.

Official sources said "the surrender of the gang of 55 criminals will help to control the killing and banditry in Dhanusa, Mahotari and Siraha Districts adjoining the Indian state of Bihar."

Reports reaching here from the low land tropical region said Indian border guards had stepped up measures to control trafficking in drugs and contraband across the Indian border since an agreement was signed in June.

"These measures have apparently helped to control illegal and unscrupulous traders and forced the criminals to surrender and live peacefully in society," a Home Ministry source said.